FBIS DAILY REPORT

Soviet Union

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Vol III No 64 *3 April 1978*

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APR 1 4 1978

Item 856-B-8 Ex 7.10: FBIS-SOV-78-64

FBIS-SOV-78-64
Monday
3 April 1978
Vol III No 64

DAILY REPORT

COMPLETED
ORIGINAL

SOVIET UNION

Available for Distribution
From NTIS

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

75

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BREZHNEV STATEMENT URGES DISARMAMENT, END OF ARMS RACE

LD012145Y Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1100 GMT 1 Apr 78 LD

[Viktor Glazunov commentary]

[Text] The Soviet Union has never been and will never be an instigator of the arms race. This statement has been made by the general secretary of the Soviet Communist party President Leonid Brezhnev. He was speaking before the soldiers and officers of a rocket unit in the area of Novosibirsk.

Leonid Brezhnev is making a tour of Siberia and the Far East, during which he is visiting cities, and having meetings with Communist Party and economic leaders to discuss prospects of economic development in these vast regions of the Soviet Union.

Leonid Brezhnev's statement, writes our commentator Viktor Glazunov, is a direct reply to the people who make a noise about some sort of a Soviet threat. Incidentally the myth of a Soviet threat is as old as the Soviet Union itself. All the time the myth has been used as a cover up for ill intentions and deeds against this country. It was used to justify the intervention of 14 capitalist countries against the young Soviet Republic, for the fascist invasion of this country in the early forties and for the cold war of the fifties and sixties. Today the mythical Soviet threat is used by the circles who make up the military-industrial complex in order to earn real billions. Indeed, the Soviet Union is a mighty power in the military sense too, but this is a might that guarantees and instant rebuff to any aggressor. Everything for effective defense and nothing above that. This is the essence of the Soviet military policy. The Soviet Union's efforts in the military field are aimed at defending and insuring the safety for itself and for its socialist friends against a possible aggression.

Naturally, we would willingly shift these efforts to other fields. The Soviet Union has never armed itself for the sake of armaments, because this brings no profit to anyone here. Ever since the time of Lenin this country has been following a course for disarmament. It is not our fault that conveyors of death continue to work at an increasing speed. We were not the first to develop the atom bomb, but we were the first to build an atomic power plant. Now that across the Atlantic they would like to put the neutron bomb on the conveyor belt, we say again the energy of the atom must serve people not their destruction.

This country not just proclaims a desire to stop the arms race and to start practical disarmament. In the past few years it has produced more than 70 concrete proposals on this score. Here are the latest of them: to stop the production of all kinds of nuclear weapons and to start reducing their stockpiles up to their total elimination, to ban any tests of nuclear weapons and to agree on a mutual renunciation on the production of neutron weapons. I would like to draw your attention to the principle of reciprocity, of equality of pledges, which is invariable present in all the Soviet proposals to stop the arms race and start disarming. We are not trying at all to upset the established roughly equal balance of forces in our favor. We want to reduce the level of armaments on a mutual basis. We are against the competition in the field of armaments. This is a dangerous competition because sometimes an arms race may get out of control. Not the course for a superiority in armaments, but a course for reducing them and weakening the military confrontation is our policy.

WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUNDTABLE'

LD021646Y Moscow International Service in Russian 0730 GMT 2 Apr 78 LD

["International Observers Roundtable" with Vitaliy Kirillov, radio commentator; Mikhail Mikhaylov, IZVESTIYA observer; and Antoliy Ovsyannikov, political observer for USSR television and radio]

Disarmament, Detente

[Text] [Ovsyannikov] Good day comrades. we would like to start our discussion with an issue that continues to be all-important and on which the fates of peoples depend--the question of disarmament, of the struggle for strengthening peace and deepening detente. As Leonid Ilich Brezhnev has stressed, the main threat to peace and the people's peace of mind presently is undoubtedly the continuing arms race. To halt the arms race and stop the deterioration of peace, as if by inertia, by the force of the irrational logic of accumulating military arsenals, into a nuclear disaster--this is the critical problem at the moment.

[Mikhaylov] The struggle to stop the arms race and strengthen detente is one involving millions and millions of people, and it is very important to point out that the trend toward detente continues to be the dominant trend in international life, in spite of all complications. This is demonstrated equally by the generally positive results of the Belgrade meeting, which showed the determination of the European peoples to continue pursuing the path outlined by the all-European conference, and their determination not to weaken, but to reinforce in the political soil all the provisions of the Helsinki final act.

Very little time remains before another great event--an even immeasurabely greater event--an event which is the fruit of the policy of detente: I am talking about the special session of the UN General Assembly on disarmament, which will take place in May and June. In preparation for it, the Geneva Disarmament Committee, which has discussed problems of banning the development of new types and systems of mass destruction weapons, has been very active. The committee has also considered Soviet proposals on these issues and the draft convention on banning nuclear neutron weapons proposed by eight socialist countries. A positive element can be seen in the fact that representatives of the Soviet Union, the United States and Great Britain brought to the attention of the Geneva committee the substantial progress at the talks on banning all nuclear tests.

USSR-U.S. Relations

[Kirillov] But, of course, the major issue today undoubtedly is Soviet-American relations and the difficulties involved in achieving a new SALT agreement.

[Mikhaylov] But Vitaliy Kirillovich, one cannot help but note here that the fewer unresolved questions at these talks, the more clearly defined the objective possibilities for deepening detente, including those in Soviet-American relations, the more insistent is the opposition to this policy and the more active are the apologists of the arms race--in the United States primarily. And not only of the arms race: Politicians, generals, diplomats and academic advisers to the top American officials, propose a global course of American adventurism as an alternative to peaceful coexistence. One can not fail to notice that from the very beginning of 1978, the American press launched a campaign calling for a review of U.S. military strategy, which is continuing and obviously growing now.

Taking part in this campaign were not only journalists, who are connected with the Pentagon, but also the top levels of the Pentagon, including Secretary of Defense Brown. Finally, the White House jointed the campaign as well.

Moreover, the issue is not only one of creating new types and systems of weapons, but also of gambling on specially trained, mobile American forces which can be quickly dispersed to participate in so-called local military conflicts in any part of the world.

[Kirillov] The so-called system of quick reaction.

[Mikhaylov] Yes, and they are to be sent, naturally, to fight for the benefit of reactionary regimes and forces, and against the forces of progress. The most revealing expose of this issue's significance was made by the U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, which is closely linked with the Pentagon. It writes that the U.S. is once again preparing for localized warfare, for which Secretary of Defense Brown is reserving three divisions as a quick reaction strike force, which you mentioned. But that is still the contingency plan. The ideal, so to speak, of the American leadership is another solution--that military action in the hotspots should be performed not by American soldiers, but by the armed forces of U.S. allies equipped with American weaponry.

[Ovsyannikov] These ideas are being developed in a series of recent speeches by the supreme commander-in-chief of the joint NATO armed forces in Europe, U.S. General Haig.

U.S.-NATO Ties

[Mikhaylov] Anatoliy Ivanovich, I would like, at this point, to return to the most recent speech by General Haig--the interview published on 25 March in the Italian newspaper LA STAMPA. According to Haig, a threat to American and Western presence exists in almost every part of the globe, in the event of almost any possible crisis. These are his words.

What does he mean by the presence of the United States and the West? Haig is naturally referring to the preservation of imperialistic influence over the course of events. Later, Haig takes the bull by the horns, as they say. He says that Europe cannot remain the main sphere of NATO's strategy any longer. In other words, give us soldiers messrs allies, and be prepared to respond positively to American demands that you take part in any military conflict of a so-called local nature, in the interests of American imperialism.

It is well known that the United States fought without the support of the other NATO countries in Vietnam. In order to avoid isolation again, Washington must now, according to Haig's plan, secure the immediate participation of the armed forces of NATO's West European countries in offensives against any country or people. That is, it must fight with someone else's fists.

[Ovsyannikov] But, it will not be easy for Haig to find volunteers in this military assistance policy. This activity is now less promising than during the Vietnam war, not only for America's partners, but for the United States itself.

[Mikhaylov] Well, of course, there is no weapon, nor can there be, capable of stopping the inevitable historical process. Only by acknowledging this can one work out a genuinely realistic strategy. It must spring from the fact that on the global scale, or in relations between states with different social systems, in Soviet-American relations particularly, there is no acceptable alternative to the policy of peaceful coexistence in a nuclear age. A wise course is not confrontation but the deepening of detente--a course which is gaining ever greater support among all peoples, as I already said.

Israel. Lebanon

[Ovsyannikov] Mikhail Aleksandrovich, you said that Washington is encouraging the military of the NATO countries in Europe, in the Near East and the Israeli aggressors. We know Western propaganda has recently launched a campaign to show that Washington is supposedly exerting some peace-making pressure on Tel Aviv, that a certain split has appeared between President Carter and Israeli Prime Minister Begin, and that there is discord on questions of principle. But is this actually the situation? Let us recall that in the past propaganda campaigns like this were also adopted, during which differences of opinion between the two countries were stressed, or rather exaggerated. They were always accompanied by practical support of the Israeli aggressors by the United States. We see the same thing now. Begin is going to the United States again this month to celebrate Israel's 30th anniversary. Well, this will happen soon, but in the meantime, Israeli forces are not withdrawing and do not intend to withdraw from southern Lebanon.

[Mikhaylov] By the way, Anatoliy Ivanovich, it is quite typical that Begin was in the United States during the offensive launched by Israel against Lebanon and that this did not even enter into the talks between him and the U.S. President, as was officially announced. Of course we know that...

[Ovsyannikov] Yes, it was arranged in such a way that other questions were discussed....

[Mikhaylov] Yes, any other question but this one.

[Ovsyannikov] Quite right. And now the aggressors are trying to implement plans there for further genocide, physical annihilation of the Arab people of Palestine. The United States, in the same way it avoided condemnation at Israel's invasion into south Lebanon, does not condemn these plans either. At the same time, attempts are being made, again with Washington's agreement and encouragement, to resurrect As-Sadat's peace initiatives and to return to direct talks between Cairo and Tel Aviv. Weizman, Israeli minister of defense, has left for Cairo to hold such talks. These voyages are combined with the shuttle diplomacy of American officials in the Near East. These are new actions which in progressive Arab countries are called the collusion of Washington, Tel Aviv and Cairo, and which have the strategic aim of creating a broad, neocolonialist bloc in that part of the world.

Of course, no one will believe that the split between Washington and Tel Aviv will affect the supplies of American military equipment to Israel. In the last 10 years, the United States has supplied Israel with arms worth $14 billion. F-15 fighter-bombers have just been delivered and used by the Israeli aggressors in southern Lebanon. These airplanes bombed peaceful Palestinian villages, despite the fact that when these airplanes were sold it was stipulated that they would be used for defense.

[Mikhaylov] Yes, a discussion is now under way. A spokesman for the State Department said that they have not yet decided in Washington how to consider Israel's actions; perhaps they can be considered defensive, Washington thinks.

[Ovsyannikov] Yes, experience shows that the United States has effectively encouraged Israel--it would be naive to think that this alliance could change. Unfortunately, on the contrary, the alliance is growing stronger and expanding because of the capitulationist policy of reactionary Arab regimes, and all this of course complicates even more the situation in the Near East.

Carter Tour

[Mikhaylov] We have talked about the United States, Europe and the Near East. Naturally, the attention of the public and our listeners is being drawn to events in other parts of the world. Among these events which concern us today, we must mention the 7-day trip by President Carter to several countries in Latin America and Africa. He has visited Venezuela and Brazil so far, and his route will include stops in Nigeria and Liberia. What can be said, Vitaliy Kirillovich, if only on the preliminary level, concerning the aims and possible results of this trip?

[Kirillov] This is Carter's first trip to Latin America and Africa since he took office. Judging by White House reports, he planned to make this trip as far back as the end of last year, as a continuation of his trip to seven European countries, the Near East and South Asia, which, as you know, took place last December. The trip was conceived--and much was written about this in the American press--as a major political and diplomatic act designed to demonstrate Washington's allegedly growing interest in the developing countries and its intention to take the problems of the United States' relations with the countries of the so-called Third World seriously. The American weekly NEWSWEEK wrote recently concerning the plan of the trip: Carter--I quote--will try to establish in an impressive manner his opinion, backed up by the ideas of Brzezinski, his adviser on national security, that the old world order, which set the East against the West, has given way to a new scheme. This new scheme is the emergence of states having influence in their own regions, such as Brazil and Nigeria.

This essentially defines the practical aim of the trip: to avert a further worsening of relations, especially in the economic field, between the group of imperialist powers and the developing countries, which is deepened by the continuing capitalist economic crisis. Regionally, it is a matter of somewhow overhauling relations with the Latin American countries--these relations have recently seriously worsened as a result of Washington's unilateral protectionist actions--and also because of the United States' desire to preserve at any cost its control of the Panama Canal.

In Africa it is important for the United States to prompt the African countries to more actively support Washington's so-called new African policy, in which Africans are expressing growing distrust.

[Ovsyannikov] I recall that specific questions also are mentioned.

[Kirillov] Quite right. Of the specific problems which are due for discussion during the trip, the press put the question of raw material prices in first place, and especially the price of oil. And this circumstance is indicated by the very fact that the American President is visiting Venezuela and Nigeria, which are, respectively, the second and third largest foreign suppliers of oil to the United States.

[Ovsyannikov] After Saudi Arabia?

[Kirillov] Quite right. The Americans want to prevent an increase in the price of oil. The U.S. deficit because of oil imports alone already amounts to $48 billion, and in 7 years' time, according to calculations, it will increase to $102 billion, which undoubtedly would very gravely undermine the international position of the American dollar.

[Ovsyannikov] Vitaliy Kirillovich, we should add a few remarks concerning the propaganda and political aims of the trip. It was not by chance that the plan for the visits, as the press notes, was carefully designed to provide comforts for correspondents accompanying the American President.

[Kirillov] Certainly, very careful attention was devoted to safeguarding the propaganda side of the trip. And at times it is difficult to say what prevailed at certain moments of this trip--purely business or propaganda.

But what is being stressed here? The main thing is the desire to lend the United States' foreign policy, which has been compromised by its support for antipopular, fascist regimes such as the Chilean military junta, at least the appearance of a stable ideological and political basis and of moral political principles, in order somehow to conceal its mercenary essence and the generally dirty methods of American diplomacy, especially in the developing countries. Hence, the demonstrative tirades by the American guest concerning the defense of human rights, which are mentioned sometimes even to the displeasure of his hosts, and also his remarks concerning majority rule in the countries of southern Africa.

[Ovsyannikov] Let us now take a look at what new constructive thoughts and proposals have been expressed during the trip. What, in this respect, have proved to be its results? I would like you to comment briefly on Carter's two main speeches in Caracas and Lagos.

[Kirillov] Yes, the speeches you have mentioned, essentially contain all the ideas on the problems of Washington's relations with the developing countries with which this visit is being carried out. In his Caracas speech, the President set forth the United States' new, or rather somewhat renovated, approach to the countries of the so-called Third World. This new approach is a package of earlier ideas. The notorious doctrine of mutual dependence proposed over 3 years ago by Kissinger, then secretary of state, form the base. It alleges that the economies of the developed and developing countries are so interwoven that a crisis at one end of the world economy will immediately hit the economic position of countries at the other end. Therefore, neither developing nor developed countries should allow a confrontation, that is a clash, among themselves, but should cooperate and jointly find solutions to such problems as the prices for industrial goods and raw materials, oil, the fall in market prices at the expense of raw material exporting countries, and so on. The political aim of the U.S. appeals in this case is completely obvious: to bind all countries by a kind of mutual guarantee and to try to characterize any state which takes measures to protect its own lawful economic interests as some kind of disturber of the peace that is allegedly acting against the economic interests of the entire international community.

[Ovsyannikov] But what, Vitaliy Kirillovich, has been discussed during the President's trip to Africa?

[Kirillov] In Africa, the United States has its own concerns, and no small ones. Some 2 years ago, the United States proclaimed its new African policy, under which it promised to secure--peacefully, at that--African majority rule, especially in Rhodesia, the country which the Africans call Zimbabwe, and in Namibia. The United States also promised to effectively pressure the racist government in the Republic of South Africa concerning a gradual dismantling of the country's racist system. However, despite various political and diplomatic initiatives, those promises have remained unfulfilled: Moreover, there are specific facts which convince the Africans that the United States and its NATO allies are doing everything they can to save the racist systems and implant neocolonialist regimes in Africa. The United States has played an extremely ignoble part in the conflict in the Horn of Africa by virtually supporting the Somali aggression against Ethiopia.

Africans are alarmed by Washington's desire to kindle interstate conflicts in Africa, and by the Americans' attempts to end the armed liberation struggle. The United States needed an authoritative intervention to restore trust in its African political policy.

[Mikhaylov] Not to restore, but to try to restore...

[Kirillov] Yes, of course, to try at least to restore it. Once again politically garish slogans have been circulated about noninterference in African affairs and the search for African solutions to African problems. To a degree, some concessions--at least, verbal concessions--have had to be made to the Africans: Together with a moral condemnation of racism, for instance, an attempt has been made to stand aside from the Salisbury deal between the Smith racist clique and African collaborators--which, by the way, has been condemned by the UN Security Council. But at the same time, the thought has been more persistently voiced that the Africans must stop the armed liberation struggle.

[Ovsyannikov] By and large, after all, that does not surpass America's old policy in Africa.

[Kirillov] Yes, of course, if you omit the increase of what I would call the factor of pressure in Washington's actions in Africa.

[Ovsyannikov] You mean a desire on Washington's part to intensify its influence on African countries?

[Kirillov] Undoubtedly, that above all, and also the fact that the Americans' statements clearly contain an intention to incite the Africans against the socialist countries, and especially against the Soviet Union and Cuba. The Americans have lately too often shown a strange logic, to put it mildly. They are constantly interfering in other people's affairs, and often calling these actions noninterference. In Africa, for instance, they are arming the facists, sending mercenaries to their assistance, foisting--or more accurately, trying to foist--their own settlement plans for Rhodesia and Namibia on the Africans and--without false modesty, as it's called--they call all this a search for African solutions to African problems. But happily, the Africans know that side of Washington's activity too well for the United States to succeed.

Italian Developments

[Ovsyannikov] In conclusion, esteemed comrades, we would like to dwell on an analysis of the dramatic events in Italy, those linked with the kidnaping of the chairman of the National Council of the Christian Democratic Party, Aldo Moro, who has in the past held the posts of foreign minister and prime minister of Italy.

[Mikhaylov] Well, there are not and cannot be two opinions as to who stood to gain from this political crime. After all, Aldo Moro had earned his laurels not only as a prominent politician in the country, but also as the leader of the Christian Democratic Party wing which drew realistic conclusions from the distribution of forces in the Italian political arena. He advocated and worked toward the creation of a new and broadly based parliamentary majority, which now consists of deputies from all the democratic parties, including the Communist Party. Although responsibility for Moro's kidnaping has been claimed by the Red Brigade, as that extreme leftist group is called, it serves reaction, which is trying at all costs to stop the process of Italy's democratic renewal, to disturb the country with acts of terrorism and to create there a climate of instability and terror.

This is the business of some 50 neofacist groupings in Italy which have links with the fascist international. And so, they are being helped by Moro's kidnapers: No matter how they style themselves, they are in fact birds of a feather, and their methods are typically fascist.

The Italian public rightly thinks that this is not an action by an isolated group or groups, but a carefully planned plot in which external forces are involved--it cannot be ruled out that it is international reaction which is directing this plot, which is aimed at undermining the Italian people's democratic gains. In this context, opinion is becoming ever more certain that both the kidnaping of Aldo Moro as well as other extremist crimes were committed through and on instructions from foreign secret services.

[Ovsyannikov] We all remember the United State's crude interference in Italy's internal affairs during the country's recent political crisis.

[Mikhaylov] And indeed, it was reported at that time that apart from American diplomats, thousands of CIA agents who were at American military bases during the Italian Government crisis, were in action. But now the crisis has been solved: A one-party Christian Democratic cabinet has been set up, not a coalition government including the communists. And that was, after all, the primary target of Washington's sabotage. Yet those who organized it are not hiding their disappointment with the outcome of the crisis, since there has been in expansion of the parliamentary majority. As result the voices of all the democratic parties will be weighty, including of course, that of the Communist Party, one of the biggest. That is why the machinery of the international plot is still in action. And as the L'ESPRESSO magazine wrote recently, the foreign secret services have become used to extremely freewheeling action in Italy. Throughout recent decades they have woven reactionary plots and set up a broad network of both extreme right and ultraleft agents. Is that not why the Christian Democrats' official weekly, IA DISCUSSIONE, writes--and I quote--it would be no exaggeration to think that behind the kidnapers of Aldo Moro something far more terrifying lies hidden--the funds, efficiency and purposes of the secret service of a foreign power.

[Ovsyannikov] Well, to call a spade a spade, that service is called the Central Intelligence Agency and the foreign power that it belongs to is the United States of America. On that, esteemed comrades, we end our round table discussion for today. Thank you for listening; all the best.

CARTER VISIT TO LATIN AMERICA YIELDS FEW POSITIVE RESULTS

Unresolved Contradictions

LD311628Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1150 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Brasilia, 31 March--U.S. President J. Carter's official visit to Brazil, the main purpose of which was an attempt to improve relations between the two states, has had, in the opinion of local observers, very modest results. Judging from the statements by official representatives of both sides, the leaders of the United States and Brazil confined themselves to discussing general topics, while virtually ignoring the problems on which there is serious disagreement: unequal trade relations and Washington's attempts to interfere in Brazil's internal affairs. Particularly disturbing to Brazil are the protectionist U.S. measures, which are an obstacle to the penetration of traditional Brazilian goods into the U.S. market.

As is noted in the communique presented to the press, there were, in the course of the talks, matters on which the two sides failed to agree. The paper JORNAL DO BRAZIL writes in this connection that the Brazilian-American dialog was marked by "mutual tension."

Caracas--There is deep disappointment in Venezuela over the recent official visit by the U.S. President. Democratic circles here note that the visit has failed to help solve such important problems as oil prices and discriminatory U.S. measures in trade with Venezuela. The American President's visit has not encouraged any change in the U.S. attitude toward Latin America, Jesus pas Galarraga, the general secretary of the People's Electoral Movement Party, has declared. In the opinion of the leader of that party's parliamentary group, Siumberto Martinez, the U.S. President's visit to Venezuela had strategic aims of interest only to the United States.

New York--The American press, in its comments on the President's trip to Venezuela and Brazil, notes the serious problems he encountered during his talks with the heads of those Latin American states. The Washington POST speaks of "certain considerable contradictions" that are unresolved. The New York TIMES stresses that the U.S. President's visit to Brazil "has not resulted in any appreciable reduction in the disagreements" between them.

Hopes Unrealized

LD311514Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD

[Yuriy Soltan dispatch from Washington]

[Text] The first part of U.S. President James Carter's foreign tour is over. He will be visiting Latin America and the states of west Africa. The aim of the tour was to stop the worsening of U.S. relations with the developing countries and to find ways, as a White House spokesman stated, to normalize and strengthen them.

However, Washington is already admitting that the hopes for the President's mission are unlikely to be realized. This was confirmed by the results of the talks he held in Venezuela and Brazil. The speech the President made in Caracas, as the Washington POST admits, did not contain a single concrete word on whether the United States intends to abolish its discrimination in its trade with the Third World, whether Washington intends to establish a moratorium on the so-called "debts" owed to the United States by developing countries, which amount to billions of dollars, or whether the United States might renounce using its aid for political and military pressure on young states.

The incompatibility of Washington's friendly statements with its continuing policy of economic and military pressure on Latin American states was pointed out to the U.S. President in Brazil.

J.S. Policy Favors Monopolies

LD011400Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 1 Apr 78 LD

[Vyacheslav Lavrentyev commentary]

[Text] The history of the relations between the United States and the Latin American countries shows that upon entering the White House, each new U.S. President unfailingly hastens to work out his approach to his southern neighbors. Carter is no exception. This is done, on the one hand, to stress that there is a special relationship between the United States and Latin America. Thus, the Latin American people are reminded that geographical predestination--that is, their proximity to the United States--gives the latter the role of master of their fates. On the other hand, the new approach allows the President to dissociate himself verbally from all that was negative in the Latin American policy of his predecessors.

In recent years the problems clouding U.S. relations with the Latin American countries have included the trade law, which Latin Americans describe as discriminatory, the problem of the Panama Canal, Washington's anti-Cuban policy and others. As is shown by the results of Carter's talks with Perez, president of Venezuela and Geisel, president of Brazil, these questions remained essentially unclarified. To be more precise, Carter had nothing comforting to say on this subject. Because of the protectionist barriers which the United States has erected against Brazilian goods, Brazil's deficit in its trade with the United States over the past few years exceeds $5 billion. But the discriminatory trade law continues to operate, and the United States does not intend to remove it.

Another problem is the amendments introduced recently by the U.S. Senate to the Panama Canal treaty. They give Washington the right to interfere militarily in the affairs of Panama, which materially distorts the essence of the treaty. This was pointed out to Carter by President Perez of Venezuela during their talks. But, as observers note, there is practically no chance of these amendments being reviewed. As the New York DAILY NEWS wrote, Carter's talks with the Presidents of Venezuela and Brazil did not lead to a coincidence of views on many important problems.

Thus, President Carter's first visit to Latin America has ended. But the number of undecided problems in the relations between Washington and its southern neighbors has not been reduced. Just like litmus paper, they impartially show us that the new U.S. administration is pursuing the same discriminatory Latin American policy which is based primarily on the interests of the major imperialist monopolies.

CARTER CONTINUES TOUR IN AFRICA; FACES MORE PROBLEMS

Goal of Economic Expansionism

LD311856Y Moscow in English to Africa 1500 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD

[Vladimir Petrov commentary]

[Text] Jimmy Carter is the first American President to visit black Africa. For that reason America's news media have been boosting this visit. When the White House said President Carter would make a speech in Lagos, American news agencies described that speech in advance as very important and one that would determine America's new relations with Africa. But does Washington really intend to change its African policy? Will it back apartheid, the system of racial separation the African peoples have cursed? And is it really going to stop supporting the colonial and racist regimes in southern Africa? No. All this is most unlikely--unlikely because the policy of any capitalist nation is determined by the corporations, and big profits have always been the goal of any corporation. The United States has been dictating to South Africa through the 2,600 companies it has in that country, companies that are eager to preserve the racist order, companies that gain the world's biggest profit with investments because they make the most of the racist system of exploitation.

American business interests have always considered racism and discrimination a source of the highest profits in their own country also. Black and other Americans have always got jobs that bring the lowest pay. Although the United States likes to talk about human rights, its black and colored people are persecuted for their political views and they are threatened when they demand equality. The United States policy in independent Africa is also pursued in the interests of corporations. The men of Wall Street regard Africa as the richest source of raw materials and profits. Compare these two figures. America's all-time investments in Africa are worth $4 billion. American corporations' profits in Africa are worth $1 billion a year.

American diplomats believe one of their main gaols is to consolidate their country's position and build up economic expansion in Africa. To promise an end to the United States corporations' predatory activity would mean a death sentence. So how can one expect Washington to change its African policy?

Low U.S. Prestige

LD012346Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2130 GMT 1 Apr 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] U.S. President Carter has arrived in Nigeria on an official visit. He will also visit another west African country, Liberia. Carter is the first American President to visit the African Continent.

Recently America has been paying much more attention to Africa, our commentator notes. This is shown, among other things, by the frequent trips to a number of African countries by Young, U.S. representative at the United Nations, by the talks in Mogadiscio of Richard Moose, assistant secretary of state for African affairs and several other visits to the continent by emissaries of Washington. What is the reason for this heightened U.S. interest in Africa and African affairs?

Even the American press has been forced to admit that Washington's prestige in the countries of Africa is now very low. This is due, above all, to the fact that the United States, while paying lipservice to the need to abolish the apartheid regimes in southern Africa and intensify the fight against racism, actually continues to support those regimes--giving them aid and arms and pouring capital into the economies of Rhodesia and the Republic of South Africa. Another cause is the U.S. position during the conflict in the Horn of Africa, where the promise of arms virtually pushed Somalia into the aggression against Ethiopia. And now, by conducting talks in Mogadiscio and giving assurances that Somalia will be compensated for the arms lost in battle, the United States is practically helping to maintain tension in that part of Africa.

It is not coincidental that the African public and press--including Nigeria--is very reserved, even pessimistic, in its assessment of the possible results of the U.S. President's visit to Africa. Thus, for example, the political observer of the Nigerian weekly TIMES INTERNATIONAL, (Dayo Sobowale), in an article devoted to that event, writes that President Carter should be told that U.S. manifestation of good will and friendship with Nigeria and all Africa should lead to concrete actions, and not remain just words. Independent Africa wants, for example, to know what Washington intends to do, and when, for the real achievement of genuine power by the majority in Namibia and Zimbabwe; when the United States will, at last, stop breaking UN sanctions and forbid U.S. firms to supply arms to the Republic of South Africa and trade with the Rhodesian regime. Washington, as we know, has no concrete answers to any of these demands.

Bankrupt Southern Africa Policy

LD301910Y Moscow in English to Africa 1330 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] According to news agencies' reports, President Carter, in his speech in Lagos, Nigeria, in the course of his tour of Latin America and Africa, intends to dwell on the United States' attitude toward the racist regimes in the African south. It is that aspect of Washington's African policy that comes under the strongest criticism in independent African countries.

For two decades now the United States has heavily armed the racist regimes in South Africa. It is American aid that has enabled Vorster to come close to producing his own nuclear arms, thus challenging all of independent Africa. American investments in South Africa now exceed $2 billion: 2,600 American companies make sky-high profits on their ruthless exploitation of Africans in that country. What is more, the United States continues to buy Rhodesian chrome in violation of the international economic sanctions imposed on the unlawful Smith regime by the United Nations. Its action has made it possible for Salisbury to survive the economic blockade.

There have been numerous American or joint Anglo-American initiatives on Rhodesia and Namibia, a good many of them under the present administration. It is enough to recall the state secretary's trip to southern Africa or the numerous visits of the American ambassador at the United Nations to African capitals. But these initiatives have not brought nearer the day when the Zimbabwe people are to become master of their own country. On the contrary, they have only strengthened the Rhodesian racists' position and enabled them to maneuver. The racists have in fact challenged the African and world public by making the internal settlement deal for setting up de facto a puppet pro-Western regime which will allow them to retain their privileges.

The United States reaction has been to mount a campaign in favor of recognizing the Salisbury deal. The Washington administration follows a similar policy with regard to Namibia. This in fact continues the policy of the previous administration, aimed at establishing in Namibia a puppet force, serving the interests of the South African racists and their Western supporters. Speeches by the American President and the intention to publish, in the near future, a revised plan of the five Western powers on Namibia indicate that the United States intends to go ahead with its bankrupt policy. Against the background of these facts the American President will certainly find it difficult to convince Africa of his country's good intentions.

Ambiguous Position

LD011205Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1030 GMT 1 Apr 78 LD

[Text] U.S. President Carter, who is making a foreign trip, has arrived in Nigeria, one of the largest states of the African Continent. The program for his visit includes discussion of questions relating to bilateral relations and oil prices and also talks about the situation in southern Africa. In this connection, the Nigerian press recalls the concern of the African public over continuing cooperation between the United States and the racist regimes in the south of the continent and over Washington's ambituous position on Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Nigerian Press Criticism

LD011894Y Moscow TASS in English 1643 GMT 1 Apr 78 LD

["Visit Which Gives Rise to Concern"--TASS headline]

[Text] Lagos, April 1 TASS--U.S. President J. Carter, now on a foreign tour, has arrived in Nigeria. The talks he is going to hold with the leaders of Nigeria, from which the United States receives 20 percent of its oil imports, will cover the questions of world oil prices, the problems of bilateral trade exchanges and the world economic order.

The main topic on the agenda of their talks is the situation in the south of Africa. A. Young, the U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations, who has been entrusted lately with implementing Washington's diplomatic "initiatives" in Africa, has arrived here for the talks. The U.S.A. is trying to impose on the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front a new version of the Anglo-American plan for a "settlement" that would enable the West to keep this African territory under its control.

In connection with President Carter's visit the Nigerian press expresses concern over the United States' continued economic and military cooperation with the South African racist regime, the sworn enemy of the African peoples. The newspapers say that American capital investments in South Africa, now amounting to 2 billion dollars, help preserve the inhuman regime of apartheid which tramples underfoot the rights of millions of Africans. The enterprises of American companies in South Africa manufacture planes, aircraft engines and various military equipment. Despite the U.N. embargo on arms shipments to the Pretoria regime, Washington continues strengthening military ties with it. Last week, for instance the U.S. State Department approved the sale to South Africa of 80 planes which may be used for military purposes.

The newspaper NEW NIGERIAN, which is close to government circles, writes that Nigerians will find insufficient a repetition by the U.S. President of general statements on Washington's "good intention" in Africa. The newspaper DAILY SKETCH criticizes Washington for its ties with the regime of apartheid as well as with the forces hostile to progressive African states, including Angola and Mozambique.

In its statement published in Lagos the National Union of Nigerian Students demanded that the United States discontinue its arms shipments to reactionary and anti-people regimes in Africa and the Middle East, stop its behind-the-stage manoeuvres to prevent a real liberation of Namibia and Zimbabwe.

Compromise With Racist Regimes

LD012003Y Moscow TASS in English 1920 GMT 1 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Lagos, April 1, TASS--Speaking here today before representatives of the Nigerian Government and public J. Carter promised to come to the assistance of the white minority in South Africa if it takes the road of gradual transformation of society toward eliminating racial discrimination. At the same time he ignored African public demands for an embargo on the USA's trade and economic cooperation with Pretoria and other effective and concrete steps toward the liquidation of the criminal regime of apartheid.

Referring in the same speech to the situation in Zimbabwe and Namibia, the U.S. President urged all the sides to take the road of accord. In other words, he actually called on the liberation movements to abandon their struggle for independence and to adopt a policy of compromise toward the racist regimes.

'Sanctimonious Statement' on Racism

LD022210Y Moscow TASS in English 2053 GMT 2 Apr 78 LD

["Words Are Not Enough"--TASS headline]

[Text] Lagos, April 2 TASS--Students at Ibadan University and Ife University held a demonstration protesting against U.S. President James Carter's visit to Nigeria. The students carried posters condemning American investment in south African territories where racist regimes have usurped power, and United States arms deliveries to those regimes, arms which they use to supress national-liberation movements in the area.

At a meeting in Lagos the U.S. President yesterday made a sanctimonious statement on the need to liberate Africa from colonialism and racism, though it is generally known that in fact Washington encourages the racist regimes in every way, ignoring the demands by African public opinion to impose an embargo on trade and economic ties with Pretoria. The United States has considerable interests in Rhodesia and Namibia.

In this connection the Nigerian magazine TIMES INTERNATIONAL writes that Africa's independent countries regard a priority task to eliminate the racist regimes in the south of the continent. All states, the U.S. included, must end all relations with the racists. Independent Africa, the magazine underlines, believes concrete deeds, not empty words.

U.S. MONOPOLY CAPITAL COVETS NIGERIAN OIL WEALTH

LD011215Y Moscow in English to Africa 2130 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD

[Vladlen Mikhaylov commentary]

[Text] Only recently, part of the United States capitalist press was waging a vicious anti-Nigerian propaganda campaign. That African country was [words indistinct] ready to swallow its neighbors. But all of a sudden the camapign was stopped and currently only compliments are paid to Nigeria in the United States. America is obviously beginning to court Nigeria, say West European newspaper observers. Some are even speaking about what they term as a sensational change in the United States attitude to that major west African country.

The financial and industrial circles in the United States--that is, the business America which actually runs the show in the United States--has always shown an interest in Nigeria. It regards Nigeria as a key source of raw materials, an advantageous place for investments and a market for its produce. When the colonial barriers barring Nigeria from the outer world had collapsed, the U.S. monopolies rushed in. The American press termed Nigeria an oil eldorado. And it clearly was--not for the Nigerian working people, though, but for the men who own Gulf Oil, Mobil Oil, Standard Oil, Texaco and other overseas companies. These, uncontrolled, were pumping out oil from Nigeria. And it is not by chance that the U.S. company, Mobil Oil, gave its holdings the space names of Saturn and Venus. The oil companies' profits achieve truly cosmic heights, and this was made possible by the system set up in Nigeria in colonial times for taxing foreign capital. The magazine AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT, published in London, has published figures showing that in the first 10 years after commercial oil extracting was launched in Nigeria the foreign companies paid to the Nigerian treasury some 100 million pounds in income tax, royalties and rent payments, or some 10 million pounds a year. But in 1966 alone the companies took out of Nigeria nearly 60 million pounds of pure profits.

However, that golden paradise for foreign companies was destined to come to an end. The Nigerian people did not desire to put up with the plunder of their country by foreign businessmen. The military who came to power in Nigeria stated their firm intention to put the country's (? main asset), oil, at the service of the nation. This made the oil kings furious. They banked on splitting the country and assisted the separatists in the eastern region--that is, the part where three-fourths of the country's oil deposits are. The United States press launched a campaign of lies and slander against the federal authorities. It is the West's imperialist monopolies, the U.S. monopolies included, who are responsible for the civil war that was raging in Nigeria for 3.5 years, for the death of hundreds of thousands of Nigerians and for the destruction brought to the country's eastern areas.

Several years have passed. The traces of bombs and shells have disappeared on Nigerian soil. Much has changed in the world; changes have affected Nigeria, too. But what is unchanged is the nature of the U.S. imperialists. The American journalist (K.M. Chrysler) in an article for the U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT points out that America's current courting of Nigeria has two explanations: the United States interest in the rich oil and gas deposits on Nigerian soil and the desire to use Nigeria's authority in Africa for U.S. aims. But as we see it, the American monopoly circles are making a mistake of (?ceremoniously) discounting the viewpoint of the Nigerian people.

AMERICAN THIRD WORLD POLICY CENTERS ON OIL INTERESTS

LD011750Y Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1100 GMT 1 Apr 78 LD

[Text] President Carter is continuing his foreign trip. After completing his tour of Latin America the President has gone to Africa. Here is a commentary from Leonid Levchenko:

This trip was publicized in advance as a manifestation of Washington's new approach to the probems of the Third World. In the course of the visit the President in his statements has been addressing all the developing countries. These statements contained quite a few general phrases about the importance of partnership between the industrial and developing states, the need to establish an equitable international order and the United States concern over the economic difficulties of the Latin American and Afro-Asian countries. But, as the New York TIMES admits, those speeches contained little new, and it could not be otherwise. The President's speeches did not have even a hint to some cardinal change in the United States policy towards the Third World countries.

Fairly recently the United States and former Western colonial powers solved the affairs of the Third World nations without their direct participation. Of course they solved them in their own favor, relying on strength and capital. Traditionally these countries were allotted the role of the suppliers of raw materials which the West purchased at the lowest prices. In everything one and the same trend has revealed itself: to solve all questions in the club of strong ones where the United States has been dominating all the time. In other words, to solve them in the interests of imperialist monopolies. And if now the United States President is engaged in direct dialog with representatives of the Third World, this is not a testimony of Washington's new approach to the developing countries' problems but an admittance of the growing role of these countries in the world of today. They have been (?coming) more resolute against the system of unequal relations with the United States, against the old economic order which Lenin described as an open plunder of the weak.

It is indicative that President Carter's itinerary goes through oil-producing countries: Venezuela and Nigeria are the United States principal suppliers of oil after Saudi Arabia. This invites the conclusion that the trip is connected above all with United States oil interests. Washington is clearly displeased with the fact that trying to protect their legitimate rights, the oil-exporting countries have been increasing the price of oil. This comes in retaliation to whipping up relentlessly the price of goods sold by the West to the developing countries. The monopolies profiteering by the gap by billions are displeased. And Washington is clearly interested in having the privileges preserved for the monopolies. This explains President Carter's call for the oil-producing countries to stabilize the price of oil, the call which many have regarded as an attempt to exert pressure on the oil-producing nations. By its obscure assurances of some concessions to the developing countries, Washington hopes to make them (?step back) and be pleased with insignificant grants. As the New York TIMES has declared with cynical frankness, the developing countries cannot expect much sympathy in the United States, which is very true.

ADMINISTRATION USING HORN EVENTS TO DELAY ARMS AGREEMENT

LD311258Y Moscow in English to North America 2330 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Reports from the Horn of Africa indicate that Somalia has ceased aggression and that peace is being restored on the Somali-Ethiopian border. In light of these recent events, it is interesting to recall how Washington tried to step up its anti-Soviet campaign during Somalia's attack and to see what has come of the attempt. Here is comment on that from Vladimir Bolshakov:

At Wake Forest, North Carolina, President Carter claimed the Soviet Union tries to interfere in the affairs of other nations and for one, in the Horn of Africa. He said the USSR has a sinister tendency to use its military strength and to interfere in military conflicts. This is a clear distortion of Soviet foreign policy. This country did everything it could to avert a conflict between Somalia and Ethiopia and to prevent a war. When the leaders of Somalia, despite all warnings, launched their attack against Ethiopia in order to change the borders, the Soviet Union responded to Ethiopia's request for aid. Neither the Soviet Union, nor Cuba, were guided by selfish interests, but only the interests of securing peace.

The actions of these socialist countries fully accorded with international law, which permits aid to any country that's victim of aggression. Even in the heat of the fighting, the Soviet Union supported the Ethiopian Government's statement that it had no intention of crossing its borders, but only aimed to rebuff attacks and liberate its own territory. The USSR and other countries interested in a peaceful settlement managed, through diplomatic channels, to keep the war from spreading to all parts of the Horn of Africa, and within a comparatively short time the war was stopped.

Senator George McGovern recently praised the Soviet Union and Cuba for having kept their promise and not permitting the border to be crossed during the liberation operation. He stressed that this restraint was commendable and helped stabilize the situation in Africa. Many other political leaders in the United States and other Western countries share that same realistic appraisal of the events in the Horn of Africa and Soviet policy there. Nevertheless, the American leaders are still coming out with obviously prejudiced comment on Soviet policy towards the Somali-Ethiopian conflict and, by the way, they have not limited themselves to the mythical claims of a Soviet menace in Africa, although this alone could damage efforts to relax international tension. They are also trying to use this same myth in regard to Soviet-American talks on a number of crucial international problems and primarily in relation to the strategic arms talks.

Apparently, the American leaders had hoped to use the events in the Horn of Africa to pressure the Soviet Union at the SALT talks and to gain unilateral advantages. Many realistic politicians in the United States, however, have had to admit this approach to the talks is unwarranted. They insist that an agreement on limiting strategic arms would not be some kind of award to the Soviet Union. After all, the United States has just as much at stake in these talks, since security and peace today can only be guaranteed through mutual agreements on limiting and reducing arms. It is unfortunate that the American administration are resorting to tactics that can only hinder Soviet-American relations. One such instance was the attempt to use the Somali-Ethiopian conflict as a means to delay a solution to the problem of limiting arms.

Effective measures to prevent war and strengthen world peace are possible only if a serious and responsible approach is taken towards Soviet-American relations and disarmament, and this is what guides Soviet policy.

INTERFERENCE MOTIVATES FORMATION OF U.S. RIGHTS AGENCY

LD311355Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Mar 78 p 4 LD

[Political commentator Vitaliy Korionov commentary: "The Ends Determine the Means"]

[Text] A bill which undoubtedly will not be overlooked by the world democratic public has been submitted to the U.S. Congress. [paragraph continues]

It provides for the creation of a new federal agency called "The Institute for Human Rights and Freedoms." The institute would be responsible for organizing conferences, exhibitions and other events supposedly serving the cause of "defending human rights"--not in the United States but in other countries--publishing various kinds of propaganda literature on the same theme, giving assistance to certain "nongovernment" organizations carrying out subversive activity and other similar acts. The institute would be headed by a council of seven people appointed by the President and would receive an initial allocation of $5 million from government funds.

Just last year the U.S. press reported that the White House instructed the National Security Council (which includes a policy analysis committee headed by presidential national security adviser Z. Brzezinski and whose work involves political crises and secret intelligence operations) to prepare "new initiatives" in the field of ideological sabotage activity under the flag of "defending human rights." Such proposals were presented, and now everybody can see what shape they are taking in practice.

This activity of course has nothing in common with the problem of defending human rights, which is so acute in the capitalist world, including where those rights have long been embodied in the socialist way of life.

For several years, leaders of leading Western capitalist countries have expressed alarm that the prestige of Western democracy is steadily declining. For instance, President J. Carter pointed out in Paris in January that the Western democratic order has been issued a challenge, and that its compatibility with modern conditions and its ability to solve social and economic problems have been called into question.

Z. Brzezinski has noted in a number of speeches that the top priority facing the current Washington administation is the task of overcoming the "crisis of spirit" and the "crisis of historic faith in our own strength", which has become "a widespread sickness which has struck the West." The sources of this "crisis of spirit" originate from such phenomena as the failure of the U.S. armed aggression against Vietnam, Watergate, corruption and other scandals which have exposed the unattractive face of bourgeois democracy and reinforced the distrust of the masses toward the policy of the dominant capitalist class.

The revelation of socialist democracy of its enormous advantages, embodied so graphically in the new USSR Constitution, and the consistent peace-loving policy of the Soviet state and other countries of the socialist community are cutting the ground from under the feet of the enemies of peace and socialism. Anti-Sovietism and anticommunism, as bourgeois ideologists themselves admit, are ceasing to perform the former role of "cementing" U.S. foreign policy. Imperialism stands in acute need of new ideological props. The ballyhoo about "human rights" is intended by its initiators to fulfil that role.

Speaking bluntly, the prop is rotten. It is absurd, to say the least, to expect concern for human rights from those who have deprived millions of working people in capitalist countries of that fundamental human right, the right to work, who humiliate millions of "coloreds" and who are doing everything to rapidly set in motion the manufacture of yet another kind of mass human destruction--the neutron bomb.

People have long been aware that the ballyhoo about human rights conceals the intention of U.S. ruling circles to find new opportunities to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries.

A massive attempt to legalize such interference was made at the Belgrade meeting by A. Goldberg, former member of the U.S. Supreme Court. This maneuver received a determined rebuff from the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community and also from some nonsocialist states and came to nothing.

However, the former judge still did not lose hope of getting his way. In an interview with the journal U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT Goldberg stated: "I would like to see a European commissioner for human rights who...would be given the authority to operate both in Western and Eastern Europe." We would draw attention to the point that they would like to appoint this "commissioner" over the people of Europe. It transpires that there is no work for him in the United States....

Now another bill aimed at achieving these same unattractive ends has emerged from the depths of the White House. Recently the Washington POST also reported that the National Security Council has prepared a new secret memorandum proposing an intensification of pressure on sovereign states by utilizing the ballyhoo around human rights "in the name of U.S. foreign policy interests."

The facts confirm that imperialist circles are stubbornly persisting in their plans, which blatantly contradict the people's desire for freedom and sovereignty. However the people, who cherish their vital rights, are drawing the requisite conclusions from these facts.

DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER VISITS TURKEY, FRG, UK

Demands Loyalty to NATO

LD3017467 Moscow TASS in English 1610 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 30, TASS--TASS commentator Dmitriy Markushev writes: A U.S. delegation led by Warren Christopher, deputy secretary of state, has ended its visit to Turkey. In Ankara, the delegation was received by Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit and held talks at the Turkish Foreign Ministry. Simultaneously, Ankara was visited by Joseph Moorer, the commander-in-chief of the U.S. Naval forces in Europe, who met Kenan Evren, the chief of the General Staff of Turkey, and Hasan Isik, minister of national defence.

What is the explanation for these visits to Turkey by high-placed American officials? The matter is that Turkish-American relations have worsened markedly of late. They in Ankara are increasingly displeased with U.S. policy toward Turkey.

Speaking recently in the Senate, Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit said that Turkish-American relations are in a "crisis" state and described their development as negative. Earlier, he repeatedly expressed himself in favour of a revision of the bilateral agreement on military cooperation with the USA.

The public in Turkey has been campaigning lately against the plans for the manufacture of the neutron bomb in the United States. Protests have come from trade union, youth and women's organizations all over the country. Apprehensions were expressed that Turkey, being a NATO member, may become one of the countries where these lethal weapons will be deployed.

It is in this light that the visits of high-placed American officials to Ankara should be regarded. There were no official reports on the outcome of the talks in Ankara.

But it is clear from press reports that by putting pressure on Turkey through the Pentagon and diplomatically, Washington is trying to prevent its growth away from the North Atlantic bloc. The NATO strategists assign Turkey a prominent part in strengthening the bloc's southeastern flank, which is not characterised by stability. According to reports from Ankara, Washington's envoys promised Turkey greater assistance, while demanding in exchange its loyalty to the North Atlantic bloc. Meantime, ever broader circles in Turkey realize that the visitors from Washington and NATO leaders are concerned about the interests of the Atlantic bloc in the region, and not the needs of the Turkish people.

'Carrot and Stick' Policy

LD312317Y Moscow TASS in English 1900 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Ankara, March 31, TASS--The Foreign Ministry of Turkey has issued a statement on the results of the negotiations held here between Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit and U.S. Deputy Secretary of State on questions of American relations Warren Christopher. From the statement it is clear that these problems have not been ironed out and that bilateral contacts will continue.

As is noted by local observers, the negotiations of the high placed representative of the U.S. Department of State boiled down to attempts to prevent Turkey's departure from NATO and prevent her from carrying out a more independent foreign policy.

Commenting on the negotiations, the newspaper HURRIYET stresses that the United States uses the "carrot and stock" policy towards Turkey. The newspaper GUNAYDIN points to a cold reception accorded to American representatives in Ankara. The Ankara DAILY NEWS points out that Turkey's striving for an independent orientation and its drawing nearer to other countries is not to the liking of some circles in the United States.

Seeks Neutron Bomb Support

LD010556Y Moscow in Bulgarian to Bulgaria 1630 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The U.S. administration has sent Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher on a special mission to the FRG. According to reports, after Bonn he is to hold talks in London. Our commentator Viktor Viktorov writes:

Washington apparently attaches urgency to Warren Christopher's mission. It even became necessary for Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher to interrupt their Easter vacation in order to meet the high-ranking American envoy in Hamburg. Why such haste?

As is evident from news agency reports, Warren Christopher has arrived in the FRG to discuss with the West German leaders the problem of neutron arms. He has brought Washington's recent plan on that problem. In essence the plan is this: The United States will start production of the barbarous bomb and then, after some time, the question will be solved of stationing Lance rockets with neutron warheads on the territory of Western Europe.

I would like to recall that the question of producing and stationing this new nuclear weapon has been of deep concern to the people for over a year. Of course Washington understands that the intention to equip NATO forces with this weapon of masss destruction will encounter a negative reaction from the world public.

The American side had hoped that, with the elapse of time, emotions would cool and the neutron bomb would get the green light. But this hope did not materialize. Also unsuccessful were the attempts by apologists of the new weapon to put an angelic face on it, to dress it in clean and humane clothes. It has become clear to many people that if the neutron weapon starts coming off the American conveyer belts, the threat of a thermonuclear catastrophe will increase enormously. Today, millions upon millions of people throughout the whole world are saying a decisive "no" to the Pentagon's plan.

Forced to take into account the public mood, the governments of the NATO countries, on whose territory neutron weapons will be stationed, have chosen to take a wait-and-see attitude. Some of them have responded to the Pentagon's plan with an outright refusal. The United States was forced to cancel the Brussels negotiations, where they expected to receive support for their plan from the West European countries. Under the circumstances, Washington decided to change tactics--Warren Christopher was sent to Bonn and London with fresh proposals. In May the NATO Council's session must decide on the question of neutron arms, and the Washington administration is hastening to secure support for its plan, at least support by its main allies. Thus it becomes clear that Washington intends to introduce the barbarous neutron weapon into the Atlantic arsenals come what may.

New U. S. Plan

LD012035Y Moscow TASS in English 1953 GMT 01 Apr 78 LD

[Text] London, April 1, TASS--Deputy U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who has arrived here, today began negotiations with British Foreign Secretary David Owen. According to press reports, they are discussing, specifically, the question of deployment in Western Europe of a new monstrous means of mass destruction of people--the neutron bomb. Reporting this, the newspaper MORNING STAR terms the American emissary as the chief neutron bomb propagandist.

The day before, W. Christopher discussed the question of this weapon in Hamburg with the FRG Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. The aim of the meeting, the West German newspaper GENERAL ANZEIGER wrote, was an attempt to find out the position of one of the U.S. main NATO partners pertaining to the Washington-nurtured plans.

Visits of the U.S. deputy secretary of state to the FRG and Britain confirm reports, that came from official NATO circles in Brussels, that Washington has now channeled the campaign in favor of the neutron bomb into the sphere of bilateral consultations. Washington needed this maneuver in view of stormy protests in Western Europe against the U.S. attempts to impose upon it the neutron weapon, which compelled a number of governments to take a restrained position towards Washington's importunities. "The neutron bomb," writes the Paris LE MATIN, "is giving rise to strong opposition in Western Europe, and this makes hesitant many governments, including those of Britain and the FRG".

Because of a broad wave of protests, the United States, as was already reported, was compelled to postpone for a later date the neutron bomb discussion in the NATO framework, planned for the end of March. The United States is now seeking its allies' support to a new American plan--to separate the question of the neutron weapon production from the question of its deployment. This will make is possible for Washington to start immediately the production of the new types of nuclear weapons, meanwhile continuing to influence its NATO partners.

In connection with W. Christopher's arrival in London, a representative of the campaign for nuclear disarmament has said that the struggle against the neutron bomb assumed a broad scope in Britain, nobody has been left indifferent. Collection of signatures is successfully under way in the country to a petition, which denounces the U.S. criminal intentions. Among thousands of Britons, who have backed this initiative are MPs. prominent trade union leaders.

'ARAFAT CRITICIZES U.S. POLICY, SUPPORTS SOVIET STAND

LD031000Y Moscow TASS in English 0855 GMT 3 Apr 78 LD

[Text] New York, April 3, TASS--Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Yasir 'Arafat, appearing on Sunday over the U.S. television, highly assessed the Soviet Union's invariable principled stand aimed at supporting the just struggle of the Palestinian Arab people for peace, self-determination and national independence. Yasir 'Arafat emphasized the urgent need of implementing in full volume the United Nations resolutions demanding Israel's withdrawal from Arab lands seized in 1967 and recognition of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to self-determination and creation of an independent state.

The chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization criticized the policy of the United States opposing self-determination of the Palestinian people. The United States, Yasir 'Arafat said, ignores lawful aspirations of the Palestinian people and denies their inalienable right to self-determination.

Assessing positively the joint Soviet-American statement of October 1, 1977, on the Middle East, Yasir 'Arafat stressed that the Carter administration has now departed from the provisions registered in the document about the granting of the right to self-determination to the Palestinian people. He also criticized sharply the separate Israeli-Egyptian talk, pointing out that under the cover of talk on "peace", the United States granted to Israel military and financial assistance and gives it political support which helps the Israeli ruling circles conduct the policy of aggression and expansion against neighboring Arab states.

Yasir 'Arafat demanded the immediate implementation of the Security Council's resolution which urges Israel to withdraw its troops from the occupied Lebanese territory and to cease fire. He said Israel's recent aggression against Lebanon was staged to crush the Palestinian resistance movement. But the Palestinian Arab people led by the PLO are determined to continue their armed struggle and to win their just cause, said Yasir 'Arafat.

U.S. SHOULD LEARN FROM MISTAKES OF AS-SADAT INITIATIVE

LD020325Y Moscow in English to North America 2230 GMT 1 Apr 78 LD

["Moscow Viewpoint"--Saturday commentary by Valentin Zorin]

[Text] I can only conclude from reactions to developments in the Middle East that it is not characteristic of American officials or the American media to admit mistakes. President Carter recently spoke of President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem last November, seeing in it bright days of new opportunities, and he remarked that they don't look as bright as they did. The President cannot deny that the plans Washington linked with the Egyptian president's initiative have failed to materialize, but he hesitated to say that once again United States' policymakers have made a mistake.

On a visit to America some time ago I had lunch in New York with several prominent news analysts, and all of them wanted to know why the Soviet Union took such a dim view of the As-Sadat initiative. One suggested that Soviet dislike for the Egyptian president was apparently so great that the Soviet Union would reject any initiative coming from him, even if it cleared the way for a Middle East adjustment. I explained the matter had nothing to do with any dislike for the Egyptian president. The Soviet Union simply believed his initiative could not improve the situation in the Middle East. Actions that had no support from other Arab states could only make things worse. I said I felt President As-Sadat's move was adventurism--he was trying to cut a knot that couldn't be cut but needed to be unravelled and this required political skill, patience and goodwill. But my opponents refused to be convinced. They insisted the Soviet Union's attitude had to do with Soviet dislike for President As-Sadat personally.

The intervening months, however, ought to have convinced them that President As-Sadat's diplomacy has failed in its purpose for quite another reason--it was naive improvisation, nothing more. The Soviet Union saw this from the start and so gave it no support.

I have been following the writing of the men I had lunch with in New York, and I regret to say, not one has had the courage to admit he was wrong. Officials and media alike go no further than to say that the bright days of new opportunities don't look as bright as they did.

I mentioned this conversation to make the point that admitting mistakes is a sure way of correcting them and avoiding the same mistakes in the future. The support Washington gave to President As-Sadat's initiative, after all, was simply a repetition of mistakes made earlier. A case in point is Henry Kissinger's shuttle diplomacy. Dr Kissinger was trying to solve the Middle East problem by acting unilaterally and ignoring the Soviet Union. When state secretary Cyrus Vance and Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko issued the joint statement on the 1st of October last year, it looked as if there would be no more such attempts. We in the Soviet Union got the impression Washington had finally drawn the proper conclusions from the failure of shuttle diplomacy and was prepared to act in a way that would really lead to a Middle East settlement. This would require two things: one, all the parties concerned must take part in the settlement, and this includes the legitimate representative of the Palestinians, the Palestine Liberation Organization; and, two, the Soviet Union must take part since it is cochairman of the Geneva conference along with the United States.

There is every sign that Washington officials are not yet fully aware of their political mistakes of the past. Otherwise they would not have been so quick to support President As-Sadat's improvisation. The fact that this improvisation has led to nothing is in a way admitted by American political leaders and news analysts. But these are only half admissions and obviously insufficient. There is a need to look the facts in the face and agree there is no other way to solve the Middle East problem than the way set down in the Soviet-American statement of 1st October. We welcome what state secretary Vance told newsmen this week--that the basic principles set forth in that statement remain principles which the United States finds reasonable. If this is the general view in Washington, then it's time to translate it into action and return to those principles.

VIOLATIONS OF JOINT MIDEAST STATEMENT MAKE U.S. SUSPECT

LD010300Y Moscow in English to North America 2230 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD

[Sergey Losev commentary]

[Excerpts] At the latest news conference of the U.S. state secretary Cyrus Vance, that was chiefly devoted to the Middle East crisis, the questions by American correspondents seem more revealing than the answers. One correspondent asked whether Mr Vance believed progress was possible at the Egyptian-Israeli talks while Mr Begin was at the head of the Israeli Government. Another jorunalist asked Mr Vance to clarify that he really meant that if Israel refused to accept the American views on the three fundamental issues it would be difficult or impossible to make progress at the talks. In short, the news conference gave vent to rumors, supported by official Washington, about American-Israeli differences, rumors that the Western media have been spreading lately. The British DAILY TELEGRAPH, for one, even claimed that relations between the United States and Israel at present are worse than ever before, since the time of the 1956 Suez war. It's interesting to recall that in this connection that, during the initial period in the separate talks between As-Sadat and Begin, there was an obvious coincidence of not only strategic but tactical goals of Washington and Tel Aviv. What has happened now in this case?

The Begin government has apparently come to believe that the steady American support, and the situation of the year with the intermediate elections to Congress, enable it to make far-reaching plans. They make it possible to go further than the frontiers agreed upon with the United States without due account for the fact that this will damage America's relations with the oil-producing Arab countries. So that no one had doubts about the real aspirations of Tel Aviv, the Begin government is now building five settlements in Sinai, 70 miles southeast of Al Arish. The moratorium on the creation of paramilitary settlements in West Jordan has been lifted. This is coupled with the Israeli attack on Lebanon, the fourth Arab state subject to aggression.

It seems to be clear in the light of all these events that the idea of separate talks has fully discredited itself. All the same, the Carter administration is looking for a way out of the deadlock again, the reanimation of the separate deals between As-Sadat and Begin, as everything seems to indicate. Meanwhile, Begin has already informed Carter through diplomatic channels that the Israeli Government does not intend to make any concessions to As-Sadat. At his latest news conference, Cyrus Vance said that the main principles outlined in the Soviet-American statement on the Middle East of last 1st October remain principles America regards as sensible. The United States still adheres to these principles, claimed the state secretary. The facts show that the United States has violated the spirit and letter of the joint statement on all its main points, from the Geneva conference to the attitude to the lawful rights of the Arab people of Palestine. It would be wrong to blame Vance for that, apparently. There are rather influential leaders in America's administration who preferred, instead of a comprehensive settlement within the framework of a Geneva conference, a course of separate deals that lack prospects, a course of confrontation with the Soviet Union and progressive Arab regimes. They preferred this only because, as it seemed to them, this course held a promise of the appearance of pro-American regimes in the Middle East that have an unfriendly attitude to the USSR. As yet it is difficult to foresee all the consequences of this obvious political miscalculation, but one thing is clear--the policy of separate deals has already blocked the peace settlement and has greatly worsened the Middle East crisis. The fate of the joint Soviet-American statement on the Middle East gives rise to another legitimate question. Is it possible to trust the present American administration if it treats accords with the Soviet Union so unceremoniously and irresponsibly?

PRAVDA EDITORIAL ARTICLE ON NORMALIZING PRC-USSR TIES

IDO10006Y Moscow TASS in English 2348 GMT 31 Mar 78 ID

[Reality and Fabrications"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, April 1, TASS--"The Soviet Union has constantly manifested and manifests a principled approach to the matter of relations between the USSR and China, dictated by a sincere desire towards their normalisation and development," says an editorial article in PRAVDA.

"Recent testimony to this is the address of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, sent on February 24 this year to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the PRC.

"In order to embody in a weighty international act the wish expressed by both sides to base their relations on the principles of peaceful coexistence, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet proposed for our countries to come out with a joint statement on the principles of relations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the People's Republic of China."

"Unfortunately," PRAVDA notes, "this time again Peking took a negative stance. Moreover, the rejection of our proposal served as a kind of signal for a new wave in the anti-Soviet campaign in China, which has never ceased for a number of years now.

"Noteworthy is a thesis that is being repeated in speeches and statements by Chinese officials and also by Peking propaganda bodies. This refers to a so-called mutual understanding on the question of normalising relations between the two countries, allegedly reached during a meeting by the heads of government of the USSR and China, held on September 11, 1969, in Peking."

The Chinese version maintains that the "negotiations on border questions must be preceded by fulfillment by the Soviet Union of a number of preliminary conditions--recognition of the existence of so-called 'disputed areas' on the Soviet territory adjacent to the border, the withdrawal of armed forces from these areas, concluding an agreement on the preservation of a status quo on the border. Besides, Peking demands the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the Mongolian People's Republic and that they be pulled back all along the entire Soviet-Chinese border.

This version is willingly taken up by certain quarters in the West. It is being alleged even that during the meeting the sides signed some document, almost a "treaty". This version has nothing in common with reality.

"The agreement reached was to undertake some steps towards normalising Soviet-Chinese relations (restore relationship at the level of ambassadors, to expand trade between the two countries, etc.). The sides agreed also that an important link in the matter of normalising inter-state relations is a border settlement. They agreed not to permit armed conflicts on the border and settle questions through negotiations."

"Acting in accordance with the real agreements, the Soviet side undertook a number of measures of which it informed Peking in a letter of September 26, 1969.

Peking, in its turn, informed by letter that the Chinese side also undertook certain steps.

Thus the two sides stated mutual interest in normalising inter-state relations and the situation on the border. It was precisely on this that mutual understanding of the sides was reached, which was the important outcome of the meeting. Some time later the sides exchanged ambassadors and took measures to expand trade."

"The position of the Soviet Union," PRAVDA goes on, "was to agree on the inadmissibility of conflicts on the border, on the beginning of Soviet-Chinese negotiations, on matters of a border settlement and on the basic principles of future constructive negotiations. One of these principles is recognition of the existing border.

"As to concrete and purely special questions connected with a border settlement, these were to be taken up by delegations appointed by the governments of the two countries.

"The sides were in agreement that, when beginning the negotiations, the two delegations ought to be guided by fundamental principles, namely: the settlement of border questions is to be implemented on the basis of acting Russian-Chinese treaty documents; the sides have no territorial claims to each other.

"Yet in the course of the meeting there were such questions also revealed, on which the sides differed at once.

"The versions about the 'disputed areas' was put forth by the Chinese premier, who attempted to impose them on the Soviet side."

"Now Peking began presenting as an element of 'mutual understanding,' the unilateral demand for the withdrawal of Soviet troops 'situated along the border,' and the withdrawal of troops from the Mongolian People's Republic," PRAVDA continues. "What is true, is that neither during the meeting, nor in the subsequent correspondence between the sides, there was nothing about this at all.

Such is the actual state of affairs."

"The Soviet Union," PRAVDA notes, "repeatedly stated that there is no, nor was there any territorial problem between it and the People's Republic of China. This problem appeared at the time when the Chinese leaders, having severed friendly relations with the USSR, took to nationalistic, great-power positions. It was then that Peking began its attempts to change the line of the Soviet-Chinese border, and not on paper alone.

"In 1964, Soviet-Chinese consultations were held on the Soviet initiative to specify the border line on individual sectors. During the consultations the delegations exchanged topographic maps. It was then revealed that a whole number of areas of Soviet territory on the Chinese maps were referred to China, and the border line in those areas was deliberately demarcated within Soviet territory, behind the line which the Soviet border guards have been protecting since the creation of the Soviet state. It is precisely these sectors of the Soviet territory that were announced by the Chinese side to be 'disputed'."

"It is important to stress here that the border line drawn on Chinese maps in so-called "disputed areas' has no legal foundations and fails to coincide with the line defined by Russian-Chinese treaty documents. By claiming the recognition of 'disputed areas,' Peking is counting on toppling in this manner the treaty-legal foundation of the existing border line."

Everything indicates that Peking counts that recognition by the Soviet side of 'disputed areas' will not permit it.

To question the validity of existing Russian-Chinese treaty documents, defining the present Soviet-Chinese border;

To hold that at present there is no actually existing single and continuous border-line between the USSR and China, defined by treaty documents;

To claim considerable areas of Soviet territory before discussing the question of the passage of the border line;

To count on the unilateral withdrawal of Soviet Armed Forces from the 'disputed areas', i.e., actually open the borders along a front stretching for thousands of kilometres; as a result the Soviet population would be left without any protection and coverage while Chinese troops would remain on the old frontiers and the Chinese authorities would be given the opportunity to 'develop' these areas."

"The very fact that the border between the two countries received in its time the name of a 'border of friendship' once again bears testimony to the thought-up and vicious character of the so-called 'border question' fanned up in China. "In actual fact there never was nor is there such a question. This was recognized in their time by the Chinese leaders themselves. In April 1960 none other but the Chinese premier, replying to a question from a correspondent at a press conference in the capital of Nepal, on whether there are areas of unestablished borders between the USSR and China, stated: "There are insignificant divergencies on the maps. They can easily be peacefully resolved."

Of course, no one maintains that the Soviet Union and China have no need for specifying the passage of the border line in some areas as defined by the Russian-Chinese treaty documents. It is from this that the Soviet side proceeded when it offered Peking to discuss questions of a border settlement both in 1964 and in 1969.

It is not difficult to carry out this work: One must take the Russian-Chinese treaty documents and carry out all the necessary specifications on their basis."

"The Chinese side has an absolutely different approach to a border settlement. From the very first day of the negotiations it took steps to avoid the examination of the main question at the negotiations--specifying the passage of the border line in individual sectors and as stubbornly insisted on the preliminary signing of an agreement about so-called 'temporary measures', the main task of which it sees in imposing on the Soviet Union the selfsame recognition of 'disputed areas'.

"The Chinese side presents as an important element of 'mutual understanding' the conclusion of an agreement on the preservation of the status quo on the border and puts it forth as an immutable condition for the further negotiations on border questions.

"Manifesting good will and guided by the sincere wish to promote progress in the negotiations, the Soviet Union did not object to the conclusion of a status quo agreement and on February 11, 1970, submitted a draft of such an agreement. It contained no preliminary conditions and, given the manifestation of minimal good will, could be the basis for working out mutually acceptable decisions."

"The Soviet side is for a status quo, and we understand as such the preservation of the present border, defined by Russian-Chinese treaty documents, without denying, as was already mentioned, the need for some specifications. Yet the Chinese side links the status quo to the recognition of 'disputed areas' with the recarving of the historically shaped out border. Naturally, the Soviet Union cannot agree to such an interpretation of the status quo.

"For more than eight years now Chinese representatives at the Soviet-Chinese neogtiations keep proposing one scheme: Without concluding a status quo agreement, the specification of the passage of the border line is impossible, yet without recognising the 'disputed areas' there can be no agreement on the status quo.

"The entire manner of Peking's behaviour demonstrates that it seeks not a settlement of border questions, but is deliberately fanning them up for its anti-Soviet, chauvinistic aims."

"To pretend," the paper writes, "that one wants to develop relations between countries on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence and even of 'strengthening friendship among peoples', while calling at the same time for the unification of all the dark forces of reaction and imperialism for struggle against the Soviet Union, to set forth territorial claims to the people which you are assuring of your desire for friendship, means to stand on a dual, and at the same time rather provocative position."

"If Peking really wanted to improve relations between the USSR and the People's Republic of China, to conclude the talks on border questions on a realistic basis, there is every opportunity to do so. The PRC leadership well knows about the numerous important Soviet initiatives which fully answer the vital interests of the Soviet and Chinese peoples, and are directed towards positive changes in the relations between the Soviet Union and China."

"We shall not guess how Soviet-Chinese relations will shape out further", stated on November 2, 1977, Leonid Brezhnev. "I just want to say that our repeated proposals for their normalisation remain in force."

"Sincere, genuine manifestation of good will and a wish to improve mutual relations--this is demanded by the interests of the peoples of our two countries. Of course, quite a number of complicated problems have accumulated over nearly two decades in the relations between the USSR and China, but this only confirms the need for a constructive exchange of views. It has been repeatedly stated in the Soviet Union that there are no such questions between the USSR and China that could not be resolved, given good will.

"It is now up to the Chinese side," points out PRAVDA.

SOVIET-CHINESE FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY MEETS IN MOSCOW

LD312332Y Moscow TASS in English 1950 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 31, TASS--Today the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and the Soviet-Chinese Friendship Society held a public function in the House for Friendship With the Peoples of Foreign Countries. The function was devoted to the 55th anniversary of the Peking-Hankou strike of Chinese railwaymen, one of the most striking political actions of Chinese proletariat under the leadership of the Communist Party of China.

The public function was attended by activists of the Soviet-Chinese Friendship Society, by scientists and representatives of the public.

THAI LEADERS' PEKING VISIT BODES NO CHANGE IN PRC POLICIES

LD011505Y Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1600 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Vladimir Viktorov commentary]

[Text] Many observers are inclined to view the official visit to China that started on Wednesday by a delegation led by the Thai prime minister, Kriangsak Chamanan, against the background of a definite activization of Peking diplomacy in Asia. What can be expected from this activization? This question is weighing on the minds of official circles in countries in South Asia whose relations with China are yet far from normal, according to a widespread opinion.

Before the delegation departed for Peking, one of its members, the Thai foreign minister, Uppadit Pachariyangkun, said in an interview for the newspaper NATION that the talks would deal with bilateral relations. He explained in part that Thailand intends to press for clarifications over the policy followed by the current Peking leaders as regards the Chinese living abroad, known as Huachiao. The problem is that despite the fact it has diplomatic relations with Thailand, Malaysia, Burma and a number of other Asian countries, Peking continues to support the subversive elements operating there. Everything seems to indicate they believe in Peking that maintenance of diplomatic relations with neighboring countries can be well combined with interference in their internal affairs. Anyway, this was the meaning of clarifications given by the Chinese ambassador to Kuala Lumpur when sometime ago Malaysia sent an official protest to China over the fact that pro-Peking agents take part in numerous acts of terrorism in that country.

Proceeding from this, many specialists in international relations have noted that although some particular country may have official relations with China, Peking keeps interfering in its internal affairs. In fact, such interference worsens, for Peking often links establishment of such relations with preliminary conditions. For example, when it established diplomatic relations with Thailand 3 years ago, Peking insisted on recognition by the country of the Maoist concept of struggle against hegemony in Asia. The same call was reiterated in the official Peking newspaper JEN-MIN JIH-PAO [PEOPLE'S DAILY] in an article times for the arrival of Thai guests in Peking.

In practical terms, this concept amounts to an attempt to make normalization of relations between China and some of its neighbors dependent on a worsening of relations between that neighbor and third countries.

The following of such concepts as we could already see in Thailand runs counter to the apparent trend for the normalization of the situation in Southeast Asia.

The present invitation to Thai delegation to China is regarded in Asian circles as another attempt of Peking diplomacy to break out of isolation on the international scene. But it would be too early to make the conclusion that Peking is ready to announce for the sake of this its pretentious plans for the spread of Maoist influence in Asia. Whereas in the past the Chinese who went abroad took along badges with pictures of Mao and his quotations books, today Peking diplomats carry in their briefcases a sort of advertisement for the modernized Maoist concepts. But such a change of accessories did not mean a change in the essence of Peking's foreign policy. Characteristic features of this policy have been and still are attempts to play on contradictions between individual states, to try to maintain hotbeds of tensions in any region including Asia.

SOVIET PREMIER KOSYGIN RECEIVES ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR

LD311900Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Today Aleksey Nikolayevich Kosygin recieve Badrus, the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Romania in the USSR, and had a conversation with him, which passed in a friendly atmosphere. Badrus handed Comrade Kosygin a message from Manescu, member of the Political Executive Committee of the RCP Central Committee and Romanian prime minister.

SFRY AMBASSADOR TO MOSCOW MEETS WITH OFFICIALS

Visits Arkhipov, Novikov

LD312310Y Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1630 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow--Today Joze Smole, Yugoslav ambassador to the USSR, paid separate visits to Ivan Arkhipov and Vladimir Novikov, deputy chairmen to the USSR Council of Ministers.

During their meeting, Smole and Arkhipov, who is chairman of the Soviet side of the Yugoslav-Soviet Inter-governmental Committee for Economic and Scientific-Technical cooperation, considered a number of topical questions in the area of economic relations between the two countries. This was also discussed during Smole's meeting with Deputy Premier Novikov, to who Smole conveyed an invitation to pay a working visit to our country. The invitations was accepted with pleasure and a short working visit is expected to take place shortly.

Sees Rusakov

LD311358Y Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1235 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow--Joze Smole, SFRY ambassador in the USSR, paid a visit to Konstantin Rusakov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in Moscow today. In the talks, which were held in a friendly atmosphere, Rusakov and Smole exchanged opinions on questions concerning the further development of Yugoslav-Soviet relations, cooperation between the LCY and CPSU and a number of topical international problems.

CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY DELEGATION ENDS USSR VISIT

LD012028Y Prague CTK in English 1715 GMT 1 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, April 1 CETEKA--A delegation of leading political workers of the Czechoslovak People's Army ended its five-day official friendly visit to the Soviet Union today and left for Czechoslovakia.

The delegation headed by Communist Party Central Committee member, chief of the Main Political Department of the Czechoslovak People's Army, Lieutenant-General Antonin Brabec was received by Marshal of the Soviet Union Dmitriy Ustinov, member of the Presidium of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee and Soviet defence minister.

The communique issued at the end of the visit says that Czechoslovak guests got acquainted with the experiences of the main political department of the Soviet Army in organization and ideological work which is directed towards the implementation of the conclusions of the 25th Soviet Communist Party Congress.

COMMUNIQUE ON KREISKY VISIT TO GDR REPORTED

LD011814Y Moscow TASS in English 1630 GMT 1 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Berlin, April 1 TASS--The main problems today are those of stopping the arms race, and limiting and reducing the armed forces and armaments, including all types of nuclear weapons, so as to achieve subsequently general and complete disarmament under strict international control. This is said in a joint communique published here on an official visit to the GDR by Austrian Federal Chancellor B. Kreisky. He held talks in Berlin with W. Stoph, chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, on the expansion of bilateral relations between the GDR and Austria.

During the talks the two sides also exchanged opinions on a number of international problems. The main attention was given to the questions of easing international tensions and of cooperation in Europe in accordance with the final act of the Helsinki conference. The two sides pointed to the need for supplementing political detente with detente in the military field. The GDR and Austria, the communique says, attach great importance to the forthcoming special session of the U.N. General Assembly on disarmament and come out for the earlist convocation of a world conference on disarmament.

The two sides stressed that achievement of progress at the Soviet-American Strategic Arms Limitation Talks and at the Vienna talks on mutual force reductions in central Europe are of exceedingly great importance for the destinies of peace.

Referring to the situation in other areas of the world the two sides pointed out specifically that a settlement of the Middle East problem is impossible without withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Arab territories occupied in 1967, implementation of the legitimate rights of the Arab people of Palestine and ensurance of the independent existence and security of all peoples in the region.

During the visit, the communique says, Austraian Federal Chancellor B. Kreisky was received by E. Honecker, general secretary of the SUPG Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State of the GDR.

A number of bilateral agreements were signed in conclusion of the talks.

CPSU'S KAPITONOV HAS TALKS WITH MSZMP OFFICIAL

LD311025Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Mar 78 p 4 LD

[Unattributed report: "Conversation Held"]

[Text] On 28 March B.V. Kapitonov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, received S. Jakab, member of the MSZMP Central Committee and chief of the MSZMP Central Committee Department of Party and Mass Organizations, who is in the Soviet Union for an exchange of party work experience, and had a conversation with him, which proceeded in a warm and comradely atmosphere.

N.A. Petrovichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and first deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee Organizational Party Work Section, participated in the conversation.

TRADE WAR BETWEEN EEC-JAPANESE REMAINS UNSOLVED

LD312335Y Moscow TASS in English 1959 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD

["Promises That Do Not Inspire Trust"--TASS headline]

[Text] Brussels, March 31, TASS--Albert Balebanov, a TASS correspondent, reports:

We did not achieve immediate and real actions but got only promises to take such actions in future. This is how Roy Denman, the leader of the Common Market delegation, general director of the main foreign relations board of the European Communities' Commission, summed up the results of the latest round of talks in Tokyo between the EEC and Japan.

Speaking at a press conference here, he virtually admitted that the talks which were held from March 22 to 24 did not remove the existing serious frictions and deep differences between the European Nine and its Japanese competitors.

The 'minor Europe' is deeply concerned over the constantly growing deficit in its balance of trade with Japan. According to Denman, the deficit considerably exceeds five billion dollars. Japan is not in a hurry to make concessions to its West European competitors.

Nobuhiko Ushiba, Japanese minister of state without portfolio, promised, though, that in 1978 his country will reduce the favourable balance of trade with the Nine by one third and will improve the access of commodities from the EEC countries to the Japanese market.

It is pointed out in Brussels, however, that Tokyo more than once made such promises in the past and never fulfilled them. Goods with the "made in Japan" marking continue flooding Western Europe up to this day.

Unable to cope with the competition, the Common Market is resorting to protectionist measures, now closing its borders to Japanese commodities, now raising customs duties.

Denman stated in this connection that not a single communique can solve all the problems in the area of trade relations between the EEC and Japan. This is why, he said, the sides planned a number of new rounds of talks which are to be held at different levels in the coming seven-eight months in Brussels and Tokyo.

The local press, however, expresses doubt that the meetings will be able to smooth over the acute contradictions between the competitors and put an end to the protracted "trade war".

CPSU CONGRATULATES LUXEMBOURG CP LEADER ON 70TH BIRTHDAY

LD311529Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Mar 78 p 1 LD

[Text] To Comrade Dominique Urbany, honorary chairman of the Communist Party of Luxembourg

Dear Comrade Dominique Urbany:

The CPSU Central Committee sends you, a prominent figure in the Luxembourg and international communist movement, cordial congratulations on your 70th birthday.

An inflexible fighter against war and fascism and an ardent internationalist who has devoted all his life to serving the working class' socialist ideals, you devote all your knowledge, abilities and great experience to the Communist Party of Luxembourg--the staunch defender of the vital interests of the country's working people.

Your many years of activity to propagandize the great ideas of Marxism-Leninism and your profoundly principled advocacy of the further strengthening of the unity of the international communist movement's ranks have earned you deserved prestige among the fraternal parties. Your great contribution to developing good-neighborly relations between our countries' peoples is well known.

We wish you, dear Comrade Dominique Urbany, good health and creative strength in the struggle to implement the tasks facing Luxembourg's communists.

[Signed] The CPSU Central Committee

CRISIS-TORN FRG ECONOMY NEEDS COOPERATION WITH USSR

LD311523Y Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 28 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[NOVOSTI correspondent N. Portugalov article: "Bonn: Good Prospects"]

[Excerpt] It is not for nothing that the present crisis in the capitalist economic system is called structural. The rise in the prices of energy and certain other important raw materials has led to the disintegration of the traditional production structures in the FRG, a rise in the cost of industrial products, and consequently a reduction in their competitiveness. A shortage of raw materials is on the horizon. The FRG economy is in a state of unacceptably one-sided dependence on exports of finished goods--the lion's share of many West German industrial products goes for export. At the same time the position of the FRG's main competitors--the United States and Japan--in the world markets as regards long-term prospects looks preferable.

West German industrialists, believing that the usual contingency instruments of government policy (reducing interest rates, encouragement for investors and so forth) in the struggle against the crisis have become blunted, are seeking a way out of it at the expense of the working people, as well as by rationalizing the taking of capital out to developing countries--nearer to a cheap labor force. Both things lead to unrestrained growth of unemployment in the FRG and a cutting back of the working people's social gains, with all the ensuing consequences, right up to the threat of political instability and the coming to power of extreme reaction. However, as developments in recent years show, even these "drastic" measures do not promise Bonn great success in the struggle against American and Japanese competitors.

Completely different prospects are opened up for the West German economy by the development of cooperation with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. And a particularly promising example of economic partnership between the Soviet Union and the FRG is the long-term barter deals planned with consideration for mutual requirements. The model for these is the well-known natural gas supply contracts from the Soviet Union in exchange for pipes from the FRG. These deals insure the Soviet Union a prominent place in the FRG's trade balance right up to the year 2000.

What is preventing West German businessmen from using this model as an example? All that is needed for this is a broader range of thought and the ability to think beyond the framework of profit categories for the next 2 or 3 years.

Certain representatives of the business world refer to difficulties arising from the social and economic differences between the two countries' systems. But practice has long shown irrefutably that these difficulties can be overcome by good will.

There are also businessmen in the FRG who, realizing the attraction of the prospects of cooperation with the Soviet Union, at the same time say openly that they are afraid to embark on that course, because they do not want to "fall into a state of dependence." But these opponents can only be reminded of the fact that economic cooperation between developed countries with different social systems leads not to unilateral dependence but to beneficial cooperation between partners. And this, apart from anything else, is a reliable guarantee of good-neighborliness and friendship.

TALKS BETWEEN FRENCH PRESIDENT, POF MARCHAIS REPORTED

LD312048Y Moscow in French to Europe 2100 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Nowadays the political situation in France is characterized by preparations for the first session of the National Assembly of the new legislature, which will begin on 3 April. French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing is conducting consultations with representatives of the main political parties, trade unions and other organizations of the country.

A meeting of the president with Georges Marchais, secretary general of the French Communist Party, took place at the Elysee today. At the end of the meeting Georges Marchais told press representatives that he had emphasized during his talks with the president that the crisis could not detract attention from the serious social injustices existing in the country. During the meeting Georges Marchais also outlined the urgent measures which should be taken, in the communist's views, in order to solve the more serious problems, and especially the efficient struggle against unemployment, the increase in the minimum wage, the rise in the social funds and a reduction of the retirement age. The French Communist Party, said Georges Marchais, will continue the struggle for democratic changes and will support the Joint Program of the left forces.

SCHMIDT, GISCARD ECONOMIC TALKS END WITHOUT RESULTS

LD030812Y Moscow TASS in English 0718 GMT 3 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Paris, April 3, TASS--The one-day meeting between President Valery Giscard d'Estaing of France and FRG Chancellor Helmut Schmidt at Rambouillet has ended without concrete results.

Local observers placed on record that the sides have failed to coordinate their stands on measures for ending monetary-financial upheaveals in Western Europe in connection with the depreciation of the U.S. dollar. They have also failed to reach agreement on possible ways of ending the crisis in Western economy.

In this connection the Paris press predicts considerably difficulties and a further aggravation of differences in the course of the session of the European Council of the countries of the Nine scheduled for April 7-8 in Copenhagen to discuss measures for overcoming the crisis phenomena in West European economy.

NEW FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS OLD PROBLEMS TO SOLVE

LD301415Y Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 13, 24 Mar 78 pp 8-9 LD

[V. Guryev article: "Elections Over, Problems Remain"]

[Excerpt] The [French] elections have shown that there exists in the country a left majority which advocates democratic changes on the basis of the Joint Government Program. For the first time during the Fifth Republic more voters, on the whole, voted for candidates of the left forces than for candidates of the government coalition. [paragraph continues]

Nevertheless, this has not resulted in the creation of a left parliamentary majority. As before, there remains an actual discrepancy between the real sociopolitical makeup of the country and the way in which it is reflected in the National Assembly. This is accounted for by the unjust electoral system, as well as by the conditions under which these elections took place.

In the situation of the continuing crisis, rising unemployment, inflation and the high cost of living the conservative forces gambled on intimidation and anticommunism in their election campaign.

Long before the elections the Joint Program of the left became the target of constant attacks which distorted its nature and aims. Conservative circles and their press maintained that the implementation of this program would cause economic chaos, disorganize France's international economic relations and undermine its national currency. Intimidation with political upheavals, new economic difficulties and "destabilization" reached unprecedented scope on the eve of the elections. This campaign was supplemented by falls in the rate of the franc organized in February and March, by feverish fluctuations in share prices on the Paris stock exchange and by an increase in the flight of capital abroad. The left forces' proposals for a democratic way out of the crisis were presented as an encroachment upon the right of ownership, upon freedoms and so forth.

At the same time France was being strongly pressured by NATO and U.S. leaders, who interfered unceremoniously in its internal affairs, seeking to prevent the strengthening of the left forces' positions. This interference was directed above all against the Communist Party. The anticommunist campaign became particularly unbridled when the left parties made a joint statement after the first round expressing their intention to jointly govern the country in the event of winning the elections.

The bourgeois press and the candidates of the ruling coalition immediately raised a fuss, saying that a left government would be dominated by the communists, who, they said, want to "seize power." The slander campaign was accompanied by relapses into anti-Sovietism and anticommunism. Under conditions when the people's desire for democratic changes is growing stronger in many Western countries and when the question of communist participation in a country's government is becoming increasingly topical, anticommunism has essentially become the chief weapon of the left's opponents. Even though intimidation with the "communist danger" no longer has the same effect on the public as in the cold war years or as reaction would like it to, it nonetheless does not remain without consequences. Some of the voters who voted for Socialist Party candidates in the first round probably did not cast their votes for Communist Party candidates in the second round.

Path to Unity

The election results were also affected by the fact that the left parties were unable to agree on a joint political course before the elections. The Socialists turned down all the communists' proposals for a resumption of talks with a view to renewing the Joint Program. The adoption of the joint statement by the leaders of the three left parties after the first round was a step forward, but it could not replace the Joint Program. As French communists point out, the election results could have been better for the left if they had acted on the basis of the Joint Government Program.

However, neither the disagreements between the left parties nor the definite disappointment of the French working people with the elections results can call into question the significance of the struggle for the unity of the democratic workers movement. As Maurice Thorez said, unity is the constant struggle for unity. It is the stubborn struggle for cohesion, on a class basis, to overcome the obstacles complicating the joint actions of the working class and other democratic forces against big capital and for democracy and socialism. For communists the line of insuring the unity of the working class is not a tactical device. It is a long-term policy not dependent on circumstantial factors.

In France the ideas of unity in the movement of all workers and democratic forces have long elicited a lively response among the working people. It is significant that in addition to the left parties the most influential trade unions--the General Labor Confederation, the French Democratic Labor Confederation and the National Education Federation--and also left Gaullists and other public organizations came out in favor of democratic changes and in support of the left candidates in the elections. The elections results achieved by the left provide a good basis for the continuation of actions with a view to strengthening the workers and democratic movement and protecting the working people's vital interests.

The elections are over, but the problems remain, it is now being said in France; problems of finding a way out of the crisis, unemployment, inflation, and need for democratic changes; problems which remain the center of the continuing stubborn class struggle.

Stable Factor

To some extent the preelection debate shed new light on the attitude of the different political parties to the most important international problems. Questions of France's place in the modern world, its foreign policy, detente and disarmament were touched on in one way or another by all the country's main forces. None of them question the policy of detente, nor the policy of further developing cooperation with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries.

The overwhelming French majority understand that this cooperation must not be dependent on the internal political situation and regard it as a constant stable factor in international relations. However, certain reactionary and pro-Atlantic elements did not fail to take advantage of the election campaign for attacks on the detente policy and for anti-Soviet speculation.

On a general plane many figures come out in favor of disarmament. But only the democratic forces resolutely advocate ending the arms race and nuclear tests and condemn the U.S. plans to produce neutron weapons and to deploy them in West Europe. General phrases and platonic wishes plainly dominate the ruling parties positions on questions of disarmament. It is futile to seek objections to neutron weapons in these declarations. At the same time the ruling parties advocate further increasing military spending and expanding trade in weapons.

But the struggle against the arms race and against the neutron bomb cannot depend on the political situation. It demands a constant effort by all countries and peoples regardless of their internal political cares and problems.

FRENCH LEFT PARTIES PROTEST AUSTERITY POLICIES OF RIGHT

LD022342Y Moscow in French to Europe 1900 GMT 2 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Our Observer Vsevolod Grigoryev writes the following on the subject of the spring session of the French National Assembly, which opens on 3 April:

The communists and the socialists have become more numerous among the deputies who will sit in the Palais Bourbon. Following the March elections their representation has risen by 29 deputies. Henceforth the parties of the left have 199 seats in the National Assembly. Almost half the electors expressed confidence in the forces of the left in the first ballot. These electors not only expressed their discontent with the policy of austerity applied at the expense of the workers, but reaffirmed their desire for democratic change in the life of the country.

This will, after all, have to be taken into account by the deputies of the parties of the coalition in power, which succeeded in retaining the majority of seats in the National Assembly, as the broad promises made by the candidates of the bourgeois parties during the electoral campaign played a very large role in the result of the election, which was favorable to these candidates. In particular they promised to take measures with a view to reducing unemployment, employing young people, creating new jobs, raising the minimum wage to 2,400 francs, raising the earnings of women, and increasing old-age pensions.

At the moment the trade unions and the leftwing parties are making reminders of the need to keep these promises. They are demanding a solution to the serious social and economic problems of the country. These demands are imposed by the fact that, as everything indicates, the authorities and the employers are not in a hurry to stick to what was promised, but propose, as has been officially announced, pursuit of an austerity policy.

It is not by chance that the employers have recently announced between 10,000 and 15,000 layoffs in the iron and steel industry. The situation is still serious in the textile and paper industries, in maritime construction where further large-scale layoffs are also expected. Inflation and rising prices continue in the country. Published after the election, the rise in the February retail price index was 0.7 percent. In March, April and May, notes the press, an even greater rise in prices is expected. These forecasts are so real that the employers are insisting on a return to a free pricing system, referring to the promises in the Blois program on this subject. Observers have hardly any doubt that the parties in power will keep their word under the circumstances.

As regards the social aspect of the electoral promises the workers, the trade unions and the leftwing parties will have to fight hard to achieve them. Following his meeting with the president of the French Republic the secretary general of the French Communist Party stated that the crisis cannot serve as a pretext for enormous social inequality in the country. Georges Marchais laid down the urgent measures, which, in the opinion of the communists, should be taken to solve the most urgent problems, especially an efficient fight against unemployment, raising the minimum wage, increasing social allowances, lowering the retirement age. The fight for the solution to these problems will certainly also be expressed in the Palais Bourbon, where the deputies of the recently elected National Assembly meet on 3 April.

NORWAY'S STRAY RESORTS TO WARNINGS OF 'SOVIET THREAT'

LD301435Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[Article by TASS observer V. Chernyshev: "The Fears of Mr Stray"]

[Text] Delivering a report on his country's security policy in the Norwegian city of Gjovik, S. Stray, deputy president of Norway's Storting (parliament), painted a truly frightening picture of an attack by a "neighboring great power." He did his best to intimidate his listeners with a discourse on whether Norwegian troops would succeed in holding their positions until the arrival of allied assistance and tried to prove that for such a small country as Norway coexistence with that "neighboring great power" is generally "highly problematic."

However, it is known that the USSR has no territorial or any other claims on Norway, nor, moreover, on any other state. Through its long, consistent struggle for the territorial integrity of all Europe it made a weighty contribution to the success of the all-European conference, whose final act was signed by the leaders of both the Soviet Union and Norway.

Some 4 years ago, at the time of the Norwegian prime minister's meeting with the CPSU Central Committee general secretary, confidence was expressed that the further broadening and strengthening of the traditional relations of friendship and fruitful cooperation between the Soviet Union and Norway serves the interests of progress and of strengthening peace on earth. As recently as last year the Norwegian foreign minister, addressing the Atlantic Committee in Oslo, stated that Soviet-Norwegian relations have never been so multifaceted as of late....

Why, then, one wonders, did Mr Stray need to present the USSR in the guise of Norway's opponent and to display before his compatriots truly apocalyptic subjects in the worst cold war spirit, distorting obvious facts?

To some extent the answer to this question was given by the speaker himself, when he admitted with great dissatisfaction that opposition to NATO membership is growing among Norwegians. This opposition, to use his words, is now just as intense as on the creation of that bloc in 1949. It has increased particularly since NATO headquarters began nurturing plans for U.S. production of neutron weapons and their deployment in West Europe.

As can be seen, Mr Stray prefers the policy of confrontation and arms race to detente and good-neighborly cooperation. And now he has decided to take advantage of the hackneyed anti-Soviet bugaboo of the "threat from the East."

BRIEFS

NEW BRITISH AMBASSADOR--Moscow, March 31, TASS--Viktor Maltsev, first deputy minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, today received Curtis Keeble, the newly appointed ambassador of Britain to the Soviet Union, in connection with the forthcoming presentation of credentials by the latter. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 1718 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD]

DRIFT TOWARD MORE TENSION IN MIDDLE EAST SEEN

LD030223Y Moscow in English to North America 2230 GMT 2 Apr 78 LD

[Igor Dmitriyev commentary]

[Text] Three weeks in March brought to the Middle East more trouble, tension and uncertainty. One of the headline events was Israel's invasion of Lebanon. It may well go down in history as the fifth war in the Middle East. The fighting virtually coincided with the visit of Menahem Begin to Washington. In a way the visit was also an event of significance. A relatively cool reception in the White House has touched off rumors of alienation creeping into relations between Washington and Tel Aviv, and finally of late there has been a new round of diplomatic activity to get the separate talks between Egypt and Israel moving again.

In my opinion all these events are closely connected. The aggression against Lebanon has indicated that Israel remains what it was--a tough and obstinate side which prefers military solutions to all others. Even its peace proposals to Egypt look like they were drawn up in army headquarters rather than by a civilian government. Remember Israel insists on some form of military presence on the West Bank of the River Jordan and on claims to its air force bases and militarized settlements in the Sinai. One is left with the impression it is ill-suited for any other role but being a big stick to intimidate the Arab countries.

For years Washington has been completely satisfied with such a state of affairs. Largely because of its assistance, Israel has been turned into a military camp with about 40 percent of its budget spent on weapons. Instead of reorienting Israel toward a more realistic political course, Washington continues to lubricate its war machine. Over the past few years the United States has supplied Israel with 7 billion dollars worth of military equipment.

The oil embargo introduced by the Arab countries after the 1973 war has dealt a blow to Washington's scheme of using Israel to scare the Arab world. At present the American administration seeks to please some Arab regimes as part of its new political line in the area, known as a more balanced approach. The overall goal is to insure an uniterrupted flow of oil from Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf.

With that in mind, the administration intends to supply weapons to some Arab regimes, and at the same time Washington would like to talk some sense into Israel and make it hide its fist behind its back at least for the time being. Israel's obstinacy and belligerency seems to fall out of [as heard] a more balanced approach.

In other words, Washington is shifting gears in the Middle East. But in which direction? Is it toward genuine peace or is it just another respite?

At a conference last Thursday President as-Sadat and Israeli Defense Minister Weizman failed to make progress in talks on the deadlocked separate negotiations between their two countries. Because of their very limited nature, the separate talks have no chance of resolving key issues such as the Palestinian problem and complete Israeli withdrawal. And the more the solution of these problems is delayed, the more unstable the situation in the Middle East becomes. Anything short of a comprehensive settlement with its security guarantees toall sides involved in the conflict, Israel included, is bound to lead away from a just and lasting peace in the area.

There's an old Russian saying that a bad peace is better than a good quarrel. It applies to family affairs, but it is precisely a bad peace that has prevailed in the Middle East for years and has brought four devastating clashes. The separate talks with Washington's surplus have brought no peace but instead other wars to the area's record. In fact, Israel's aggression against Lebanon has been the only major development since the separate talks began, but what a tragic one.

Washington is shifting gears in the Middle East, but it seems that while there is a long way to peace, the area is drifting toward more tension.

RECONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE ON MIDDLE EAST URGED

LD012258Y Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 1 Apr 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary: "The Danger of the Middle East Must Be Stopped"]

[Text] Once again Israel's aggression against southern Lebanon has proved the validity of repeated warnings by the Soviet Union that the unsolved Middle East conflict, Israel's occupation of the Arab lands and the violation of the legitimate national rights of the Arab Palestinian people create conditions for military clashes and are fraught with dangerous consequences. The march of events in the Middle East in the last few years indicates that a settlement can lead to establishment of a genuine peace in this region only if it is comprehensive, resulting in removal of the causes of the conflict. There can be no hope that extinguishing this or that isolated military clash can lead to the establishment of peace in the Middle East.

It is noteworthy that the need to move now, more than ever, resounding in declarations made by political figures who understand this reality. Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, for instance, said: I believe that the idea of the Geneva conference is still relevant. On this occasion, one should mention that the Geneva peace conference on the Middle East was convened in the wake of the war of October 1973. The convening of the conference was one of the political and military results of the war; it was become a joint achievement of all those who strive for the establishment of a just, solid peace in the Middle East. But the conference was impeded after its rather good initial stages. This was due to the fact that Israel and its protectors began to minimize the Geneva conference in favor of separate deals, which further removed the principal issues of a Middle East settlement. Evidence of this is the separate Israeli-Egyptian talks, which have clearly indicated that Israel is trying to impose on the Arab countries--one after the other--measures that would consolidate the results of the 1967 Israeli aggression. The Geneva conference does not suit Israel because it impedes realization of its schemes, given that it would have to confront a unified front consisting of Arab states and the Soviet Union which, firmly and continuously, defends the just cause of the Arab peoples.

For this reason, supporters of separate deals are generally attempting to forget about Geneva, since they realize, at the least, recalling simply a place. This doubtless contradicts the interests of the Arabs and the cause of a just, durable peace in the Middle East. Proceeding from its firm position on the affect that there must be a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East conflict, with participation by all interested parties, the Soviet Union believes that the Geneva conference is precisely the place where the foundations of peace in the region can be established within the framework of the Geneva conference. It will not be possible to ignore the rights of any party to the conflict. No doubt the representatives of the Palestinian people--[illegible] be among the parties. More than once the Soviet Union put forward [illegible] the Geneva conference.

This came after the release of the Soviet-American communique in October 1977, which carried real hope for an overall settlement in the framework of the Geneva conference. But this positive move was interrupted as a result of the separate Egyptian-Israeli talks, under the sponsorship of the United States.

In his report to the 25th CPSU Congress Leonid Brezhnev said: It is clear how irresponsible are those people intent on realizing selfish objectives, on turning the problem of a Middle East settlement into a political game and on using separate, partial agreements to postpone the date for, or cast doubt on, taking effective decisions. This warning is insistently resounding now more than ever before.

FURTHER MATERIAL ON WEIZMAN VISIT TO CAIRO

Israeli Plan for Settlement

LD0121127 Moscow TASS in English 2025 GMT 1 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, April 1, TASS--Talking to a group of American businessmen, Egyptian President as-Sadat has actually admitted that the Israeli defence minister brought to Cairo only another version of a separate Middle East "settlement", elaborated by Tel Aviv with Washington's support. In accordance with such a "settlement", Israel is to preserve on the occupied Sinai Peninsula its air bases and paramilitary settlements. This plan was turned down by Cairo earlier, since, as the American newspaper DAILY NEWS writes, had As-Sadat accepted it, he would have finally lost his face in the eyes of the Arab peoples.

Nevertheless, Egypt by no means intends to terminate bargaining with Israel around the impending separate deal. As-Sadat is trying in every way to save his capitulatory "initiative", which has been broadly denounced in Arab countries, and implies a possibility of new concessions. Noting that Weizman prolonged his stay in Cairo to have a second meeting with the Egyptian president and that he intends to have a new meeting with War Minister al-Jamasi, the French newspaper LE FIGARO queries: Does not this show that Cairo, as before, is interested in a continued dialogue with Jerusalem?

The FRANCE PRESSE reports: Discussions in Cairo are regarded in Israeli political circles as "undoubtedly successful." In Tel Aviv there is no pessimism over the failure to reach agreement concerning resumption of the work of the Egyptian-Israeli political and military committees, since there is a possibility of "finding another framework for continuation of separate contacts." The sentiments prevailing in the Israeli ruling spheres in actual fact disavow the campaign raised by the Egyptian press, which publicly laments over Israel's tough stand and terms the outcome of Weizman's visit to Cairo as a "failure".

The Algerian ASH-SHA'B writes that Cairo artifically creates the "impression of a rupture between the sides" in a bid to conceal their drawing closer in the question of a separate deal.

"A stab in the back of the Arab peoples"--this is how As-Sadat's policy was described by prominent Egyptian journalists and public leader Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal in an interview to the Lebanese weekly AL-USBU' AL-'ARABI. "For As-Sadat it should be absolutely clear, the Jordanian newspaper JORDAN TIMES writes, that he is unable to get anything from Israel and from the Americans. If As-Sadat does not draw lessons from his failures, the damage and humiliation inflicted upon the Arabs will be ever on the rise."

U.S. Backing of Israel

LD312232Y Moscow TASS in English 1949 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 31, TASS--Israeli Defence Minister Weizman held talks in Cairo with Egyptian President as-Sadat and War Minister al-Jamasi. To believe the Israeli minister, they passed in a "friendly atmosphere". Nevertheless, the sides failed to reach a compromise that would allow the prompt resumption of the work of the Egyptian-Israeli military and political committees.

Political commentators voice the opinion in this connection that As-Sadat, lacking sufficient support within the country, and (?subjected) to growing isolation in the Arab world, does not at this time dare openly agree to Israel's capitulatory terms for signing a separate agreement with Egypt. Yet the Israeli minister did not bring to Cairo any new proposals and upheld Tel Aviv's former demands.

It is noteworthy that the Egyptian Government, as a London paper FINANCIAL TIMES correspondent reports, tried to keep Weizman's visit a secret, apprehensive of the effect a confirmation by Begin's emissary of Israel's tough position would have, by underlining As-Sadat's weak sides; he is compelled to continue the separate talks though his partner is acting from positions of crude force. The Paris paper MATIN explains Weizman's trip to Egypt by Tel Aviv's desire to gain time. Indeed Israel has weighty reasons to drag out the signing of an agreement with Egypt as long as possible; Israeli leaders believe that the continuing deadlock at the talk weakens As-Sadat's already shaky positions, compelling him to agree to the deal on Israel's terms.

Rather characteristic in this light is the position of the United States. During a visit to Brasilia President James Carter made it clear at a press conference in that capital that Washington believes Begin is sufficiently flexible to attain a separate settlement with Egypt. The statement which affirmed United States' support for Israel's expansionist policy must have been met with satisfaction by the head of the Israeli Government, feels the French paper L' AURORE.

Touching on the U.S. intention to sell meanwhile large consignments of military aircraft to Israel, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, James Carter, according to the New York DAILY NEWS, stated that this well-balanced deal will provide Israel with superior airforce and at the same time will demonstrate the friendship of the USA with moderate Arab states.

The Egyptian-Israeli bargaining in preparation of the separate deal, as well as the hypocritical policy of the U.S. in the Middle East, have aroused wide criticism in the Arab world. The Kuwaiti paper AL-HADAF draws attention to the fact that the Israeli defence ministers' visit to Cairo is taking place at a time when Israel occupied south Lebanon, bringing woe and death to its population. The visit, the paper writes, proves the intention of the Egyptian authorities to carry on their flirt with the Israeli aggressors.

As-Sadat's "initiative," stresses the Beirut ASH-SHA'BA, is kept alive thanks to U.S. support. The U.S. strives for a separate Israeli-Egyptian deal at any price in a bid to strengthen its positions in the area. The essence of the Middle East policy of the U.S. has not changed, the paper finds. When it comes to condemning the Israeli aggression against Lebanon and Israel's expansionist position, Washington invariably takes Tel Aviv's side, yet when it comes to the rights of the Arabs the U.S. at once becomes powerless.

Israeli Stance, U.S. Support

LD022025Y Moscow TASS in English 1957 GMT 2 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, April 2, TASS--In a television appearance on his return from Cairo, Israeli Defence Minister Weizman maintained that his talks with Egyptian President as-Sadat and War Minister al-Jamasi were "positive". Weizman said he intends to keep visiting Cairo and holding talks with the Egyptian leaders.

Political commentators underline that, in spite of Cairo's growing isolation in the Arab world because of As-Sadat's treacherous policy, the Egyptian president, with Washington's eager support, persists in his capitulatory course aimed at concluding a separate deal with Israel. Asked why Egypt agreed to receive Weizman at a time when Israel is demonstrating intransigence and waging aggression against Lebanon, As-Sadat cynically stated in an interview for the Cairo magazine OCTOBER that, following his "peace" initiative, it was decided once and for all to maintain this kind of contacts.

Indeed commentators point out that the secret Egyptian-Israeli contacts practically never cease, which indicates that the separate bargaining goes on.

Conducting a tough policy in regard to Egypt, the Israeli leaders take into account that, having embarked on the road of open betrayal of the Arab peoples' interests, As-Sadat will be compelled to make further concessions. This is why they are demanding Egypt's agreement to the preservation of Israeli paramilitary settlements on the Sinai and an Israeli military presence at such strategically important points as, for example, Sharm ash-Shaykh.

This is confirmed, in particular, by a statement of the Agriculture Minister of Israel Sharon in an interview for the Israeli radio, who called for increasing the number of Jewish settlements in Sinai.

A substantial factor allowing Israel to take such a tough stance is not only U.S. support but the split in the Arab world due to the notorious "initiative" of the Egyptian president and his defeatist policy. What happened in the Arab world following this initiative, stated the well known Egyptian public figure and journalist M.H. Kaykal in an interview for the weekly AL-USBU' AL-'ARABI, demonstrates how dear the Arabs have to pay for this step by As-Sadat. The fact that Israel has not renounced its aggressive position and stubbornly adheres to its policy also points to the damage inflicted by this "initiative" on the Arabs.

As-Sadat and Anti-Sovietism

LD012256Y Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 1 Apr 78 LD

[Aleksandr Timoshkin commentary: "On General Weizman's Visit to Cairo"]

[Text] The recent visit to Cairo by Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman has elicited many commentaries. The London FINANCIAL TIMES, for instance, underlines that General Weizman has probed Cairo's attitude to the possibility of concluding a separate deal with Egypt falling short (?of a peace agreement), as the paper put it. Such a deal, Tel Aviv believes, should provide for demilitarizing Sinai and for Israel's retaining a number of strategic positions and settlements.

Demilitarizing Sinai is meant to insure that only a greatly reduced number of Egyptian armed forces would remain in this area, an indivisible part of Egypt. Behind all this also lies the clear objective of the Israeli aggressor: to isolate Egypt, completely and definitively, from the general Arab struggle for a just, comprehensive settlement in the Middle East.

I believe that it is by no means an accident that General Weizman returned to Tel Aviv from Cairo in a good mood and with a smile. Israel, in fact, knows quite well the extent of the bitter situation now being experienced by As-Sadat because of his trip to occupied Jerusalem, which heralded the separate talks so humiliating for Arabs. As a result of this line of the Egyptian leadership, Cairo became totally isolated in the Arab world and also even internationally. The reason is that by orienting Cairo's policy towards America and other Western countries, As-Sadat lost the support of the allies of the Arab peoples and their true friends, particularly the Soviet Union. Today, and this is admitted even by political observers in the West, As-Sadat has no effective means to face up to the increasing pressure put on him by Israel and its American protectors.

Despite all this, the Egyptian president continues his face-saving attempts and claims to be the defender of the interests of all Arabs. As-Sadat is also banking on anti-Sovietism to ally the aggressor's intransigence and at the same time to please their American protectors.

The Egyptian president also tries to resort to the so-called Soviet threat in his dealings with his Israeli and American associates, in a dishonest game in the Middle East. For example, As-Sadat has claimed that Israel's intransigence in its separate talks with Egypt put trump cards in the hands of the Soviet Union; but As-Sadat failed to elaborate on what he meant by trump cards. Here I can say just one thing: The insolent intransigence of the Israeli aggressor concerning the most important issues of a Middle East settlement indicates, if anything, the correctness of the policy of the Soviet Union which has always considered the road of separate deals as serving only Tel Aviv's expansionist claims and the colonialist intentions of American imperialists. It also delays and undermines the prospects of a genuine just settlement of the crisis that must, first and foremost, guarantee the national legitimate rights and interests of the Arab Palestinian people and the other Arab peoples. This is exactly the type of settlement the Soviet Union calls for and is struggling to secure.

As-Sadat's Isolation

LD312200Y Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1230 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD

[Aleksandr Timoshkin commentary: "The Visit of Israeli Defense Minister Weizman to Cairo"]

[Text] Israeli Defense Minister Gen Weizman has once again visited Egypt. He met with President as-Sadat, Minister of War Al-Jamasi and other Egyptian personalities. Weizman's visit followed the exchange of personal messages between the Egyptian president and the Israeli prime minister, at the initiative of President as-Sadat. The Israeli press regards Cairo's decision to welcome General Weizman as confirmation of As-Sadat's overwhelming desire to attain peace. What is meant here is not a just and lasting peace in the Middle East as a whole, but a separate Egyptian-Israeli peace, since all other Arab countries [word indistinct] to participate in the bilateral talks between Cairo and Tel Aviv; this despite the fact that Egyptian, American and Israeli diplomacy did not spare any effort to broaden participation in the talks.

This categorically proves that President as-Sadat and his notorious peace initiative remain lonely and isolated in the Arab world. Some Arab countries strongly condemned this initiative, considering it treason to the vital national interests of the Palestinian people and all Arab peoples. Other Arab countries did not bless or support this initiative in this form or any other. The visit of the Israeli defense minister to Cairo was carried out in circumstances not at all in Egypt's favor as regards the Middle East. Israel continues it aggression against Lebanon and is not hurrying to implement the Security Council resolution regarding withdrawal of its forces. General Weizman threatened to resume wide-scale military operations in Lebanon against the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese nationalist forces. Begin's intransigent attitude toward settlement in the Middle East has hardened following the satisfaction and appreciation he received in Washington. Now he repeats his statement to the effect that there is no talk of Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in 1967 [words indistinct], recognition of the sacred right of the Palestinian people to set up its independent state. It is clear that General Weizman could only have defended this attitude of Tel Aviv during his visit to Cairo, but what attitude could Cairo have adopted in response to this stand? According to reports from the Egyptian capital President as-Sadat repeated during his meeting with Weizman his statements about his desire to reach a just and lasting peace in the Middle East and solution to the Palestine problem. However, such statements in these circumstances are [words indistinct]. The Egyptian leadership does not have the effective means to reach its objectives; it is not self-sufficient, nor does it have the support of other Arab countries and their loyal allies and friends.

The truth must be told: Cairo has been denied all this because of its separatist policy. Consequently As-Sadat's statement about his desire to reach a settlement in the Middle East in the interest of all Arabs remains only propaganda, an action of demagogic character that cannot create the impression desired by Cairo. [Words indistinct] on the eve of the visit of General Weizman to Cairo Senator Javits, one of the supporters of Israel and member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, expressed the conviction that President as-Sadat would reconsider his attitudes [words indistinct]. This means only one thing: Tel Aviv, like Washington, awaits new concessions of principle from Cairo in the face of the expansionist plans of the aggressor and the neocolonialist ambitions of his overseas protectors, who have ambitions in the Arab world. It seems that Israel and the United States believe that Cairo has no alternative at present but to sign a separate deal with Israel on the basis of conditions imposed by the latter.

CAIRO CONFERENCE SHOWS ARAB SPLIT DAMAGES ARAB CAUSE

LD311059Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[Correspondent A. Vasilyev dispatch under general headline "Regarding the Near East Situation"]

[Text] Cairo, 28 March--A regular session of the Arab League Council in which delegations from 11 countries are participating is being held in the Egyptian capital. Syria, Algeria, Libya, Iraq and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen are boycotting the conference. This is occasioned by Cairo's policy line of separate talks with Israel. A PLO representative whom the organization has officially removed from his post is attending the conference. The PLO has stated that it is boycotting this meeting.

The foreign ministers of the participating countries have published an appeal to "strengthen the unity of Arab ranks" and condemned the Israeli aggression against Lebanon. The Cairo conference has shown that the split in the Arab world caused by the actions of the regimes which are cooperating with imperialist forces is still deep and is damaging the cause of the Arab people who are resisting Israeli aggression.

MORE MATERIAL ON ISRAEL'S MOVE INTO LEBANON

Israeli Plans for Annihilation

LD012014Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1240 GMT 1 Apr 78 LD

["By the Method of Provocation"--TASS headline]

[Text] Amman--Tel Aviv has officially admitted that it harbors plans for a physical annihilation of the Palestinian resistance movement in southern Lebanon and for a liquidation of the Palestinian problem as a whole. In order to carry out this criminal design Israel resorted to an open provocation. In accordance with the recently published government statement, a detachment of the Israeli "commandos" was sent "to carry out a limited operation" 2 weeks prior to the commencement of the large-scale aggression in southern Lebanon. From the statement of the Israeli Defense Ministry spokesman, the nature of the action is unclear. It was carried out with the permission of the cabinet. It is only known that it was carried out in the region of the Lebanese town of Ad-Damur against the "Palestinian bases" allegedly situated there. This cannot be viewed as anything other than an attempt to provoke the Palestinians in a return action.

The formula is by no means new and was used by the Hitlerites in order to attack Poland in 1939. An SS detachment, disguised in Polish uniforms, staged an attack on a German radio station in the town of Gliwice, and this was used as a pretext for an attack on Poland.

The incident near Tel Aviv which was the result of retaliatory action by Palestinian partisans was quickly used for an incursion into southern Lebanon. This barbaric action against a sovereign state resulted in the killing and wounding of thousands of peaceful inhabitants and in the burning of hundreds of empty villages. Over 260,000 southern Lebanese inhabitants were forced to leave their places of birth and go to the northern parts of the country. Thus the "antipartisan" action turned into genocide with regard to Palestinians in the south of the country.

The British DAILY TELEGRAPH stressed that the main target for the Israeli troops was not only the Palestinian self-defense detachments but also the peaceful population. One of the paper's dispatches from Tel Aviv says that the majority of those Palestinians killed and taken prisoner by the Israelis were old men, women and children. After occupying 20 percent of the country's territory, the occupiers started purging it of surviving Palestinians. They created punitive detachments with the Lebanese Christian Phalangists, with which they began to carry out mass repressions. It is becoming clear now that Israel has no intention of leaving the occupied territories before it "combs through" southern Lebanon and before "self-determination" is transferred to the representatives of the rightwing forces. Blatantly trampling on UN Security Council resolution No 425 on the immediate withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon, Tel Aviv continues to send additional contingents there. The Israeli Government is unswervingly implementing its plan for "settling" the Palestinian problem.

Continued Israeli Violence

LD311422Y Moscow TASS in English 1412 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 31, TASS--TASS commentator Georgiy Kuvaldin writes:

The Israeli military that staged an act of overt aggression against a neighbouring Arab country continues its violence in the south of Lebanon. The occupiers shell peaceful Lebanese towns and villages, stage punitive operations in the occupied land. Israel's defence minister, Weizman, threatened with resumption of wide military actions in Lebanon. Simultaneously measures are taken to form a puppet Lebanese forces, to set up strongpoints and to isolate southern districts from the other part of Lebanon, to ensure the lasting Israeli control over them.

By all indications, the aggressors have no intention to observe the resolution of the United Nations Security Council which demands immediate ceasefire in Lebanon and undelayed withdrawal of Israeli troops from the territory of that country. Moreover, they intend to entrench themselves in the occupied Arab lands and establish their "orders" there. This was, specifically, confirmed by the influential Israeli newspaper HA'AREZ which published an article by prominent specialist on military matters S. Shif, who declared outright that Israeli troops will remain in Lebanon for at least another month.

It is obvious that Israel would be unable to defy so brazenly the resolution of the United Nations Security Council if it were not for outside support, above all from the United States. While declaring in words for withdrawal of Israeli troops from the territory of south Lebanon, the United States, which is the author of the draft resolution of the Security Council, in reality connives with the aggressor and helps it achieve the goals set: to deal a blow at the Palestinian resistance movement, to undermine the Arab national liberation movement. This is shown convincingly, specifically, by the recent visit to the United States by Israel's Prime Minister Begin and his talks with American leaders during which no mention was made of Israel's aggression in Lebanon and attention was concentrated on the attempts to overcome the impasse of the Israeli-Egyptian separate talks and to save the capitulatory "initiative" of President as-Sadat which has floundered. Observers also note the fact that the latest weapons are being used during the aggression in Lebanon. Washington lavishly supplied and continues supplying the Israeli military with these weapons.

Doesn't all this show that the United States tabled the recent draft resolution to the Security Council merely as a manoeuvre aimed at lulling and misleading the world public opinion, at arresting the wave of indignation with Israel's piratic attack on south Lebanon, many observers ask with good reason. It seems that this is so.

The Israeli aggression against sovereign Lebanon resulted in a new sharp aggravation of the Middle East conflict. The progressive forces of the Arab world, broad circles of international public resolutely condemned this aggression and demand complete and immediate withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanese territory.

Situation in Central Lebanon

LD012120Y Moscow TASS in English 1219 GMT 1 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Beirut, April 1 TASS--Life is returning to normal in the central areas of Lebanon, which were subjected to brutal shelling and bombing by the Israeli artillery and airforce. The national patriotic forces of Lebanon and the Palestine resistance movement are taking measures of aid to inhabitants of these areas.

A statement to this effect was made by chairman of the PLO Executive Committee Yasir 'Arafat during his meeting with Lebanese Prime Minister S. al-Huss here.

In the town of Tyre, controlled by the Palestine resistance movement and the national patriotic forces and villages near it, he noted roads and apartment houses are being recontructed. Water and power supply is being resumed.

'Arafat Interviews

LD311646Y Moscow TASS in English 1614 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Paris, March 31, TASS--In an interview to a L'HUMANITE correspondent, Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, has said that the aim of the Israeli aggression in south Lebanon is to destroy the Palestine resistance movement. This was admitted by Begin himself, and this was also stressed in a resolution, approved by the Knesset, Yasir 'Arafat stressed. Such an operation could be done only with the consent of the American administration.

In this act of aggression the Israelis used most up-to-date American weapons such as F-15 planes, pellet bombs, multi-stage missiles, Yasir 'Arafat stressed. This resulted in deaths of several hundred civilians, to destruction of villages and Palestine refugee camps.

Speaking about raids on peaceful villages and the battles in which the whole might of the Israeli military machine was used, I ask the question, said the head of the Palestine Liberation Organization, where is the respect for human rights they are so much talking about overseas?

We understand the U.N. decision, which envisages the dispatch of an international force to south Lebanon, Yasir 'Arafat said. As far as possible, we will support by all means this force in discharging its mission, its aim being to put an end to the Israeli occupation.

New York, March 31, TASS--A joint Soviet-American statement on the Middle East, which was supported by the Palestine resistance movement, by other sides, is the foundation in attaining peace in the Middle East, said chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization Yasir 'Arafat in a UPI interview. He stressed that if the principles set out in the document were followed, the chances for a Middle East settlement would increase.

I do not see a possibility of attaining peace, if the legitimate rights of the Arab people of Palestine are not guaranteed, Yasir 'Arafat said. We are not against peace, and we are waging armed struggle not because we like war. This struggle is the only means of restoring our rights.

Views of Lebanese

LD012059Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1635 GMT 1 Apr 78 LD

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Viktor Anikin]

[Text] The Israeli aggression in southern Lebanon has been going on for more than 2 weeks. Despite the demand of the UN Security Council, Tel Aviv continues to categorically refuse to withdraw its troops. What do the Lebanese think about the events that are taking place? I put this question to our correspondent in Beirut, Leonid Rassadin:

[Rassadin] First of all I should say that the Lebanese administration has as its main task now the evacuation of the interventionists from southern Lebanon. This was reiterated a day or two ago by Prime Minister Salim al-Huss. As is known, the UN forces are gradually being introduced into southern Lebanon. However, they are coming up against many difficulties, in particular the Israelis' refusal to abandon a number of areas they have occupied. However, that is not the only trouble.

The main barrier on the road to a speedy implementation of the Security Council demand is the intensification of Israel's bellicosity and its threat to expand the scale of its intervention and, finally, Tel Aviv's political maneuvers to consolidate the occupation of southern Lebanon. Attention is also drawn here to Israel's hardened stance in connection with the resumption of the separate talks between Cairo and Tel Aviv. Indeed, Israeli Defense Minister Weizman did not have time to meet As-Sadat in the Egyptian capital before there was a statement by a highly placed Israeli diplomat on Israel's intention to maintain its military presence in southern Lebanon for a long time. This statement was made by Eliav, Israel's deputy representative at the United Nations. In the opinion of local observers Cairo, by its capitulationist policy, is clearly encouraging Tel Aviv to carry on with its aggressive, expansionist course.

[Anikin] How is the American Government's position with regard to Israel's aggression viewed in Lebanon?

[Rassadin] While advocating the withdrawal of Israeli troops from southern Lebanon, the American administration in fact has taken up the position of a bystander on this matter. Whereas a week ago the bourgeois Lebanese press was expressing the hope that the United States would bring certain pressure to bear on Israel, no one talks about it now. Rather the opposite. With every passing day the Lebanese realize that Washington is directly involved in Israel's aggression against Lebanon by supplying Tel Aviv with the most modern weapons, which were recently used by the Israeli brasshats. The situation now in southern Lebanon, Lebanese political circles say, is fraught with dangerous new consequences and the only way to eliminate the tension there is immediate withdrawal of the Israeli interventionist troops from southern Lebanon.

Israeli Looting

LD011120Y Moscow TASS in English 1017 GMT 1 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Amman, April 1 TASS--The Israeli troops which have occupied southern Lebanon together with military formations of the rightwing Christian forces in the area are looting the population and commit acts of violence and "revenge" against the Palestinians and Moslems living there.

Actions of this kind have assumed such proportions that even the "free" Israeli press can no longer keep silent about them.

The chief of the General Staff of the Israeli Army, Gur, had to give "explanations" on the matter. He said that over 50 Israeli soldiers would be put on trial for marauding. Gur also admitted numerous fact of atrocities and robberies committed by rightwing Christian thugs.

ISRAELI CP DEMANDS BEGIN'S RESIGNATION

LD301240Y Moscow TASS in English 1147 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Rome, March 30, TASS--The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel demanded the resignation of Begin's government and radical change of the policy of the Israeli state.

The results of the recent talks between President of the United States Carter and Israel's Prime Minister Begin do not show at all that there are any serious differences between them. The ruling circles of both countries do not wish to have an all-embracing solution of the Middle East problem that could ensure peace and security of all peoples and countries of the region. Tel Aviv and Washington count on separate collusion between the Governments of Israel and Egypt, seek to knock together a military bloc of all pro-imperialist forces in the Middle East aimed against national liberation movements.

The statement stresses that a just and durable peace can be achieved only under the condition of Israel's withdrawal from all lands occupied in 1967 and recognition of the right of the Palestinian Arab people to self-determination and creation of an independent state. The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel, the statement says, declares for the convocation of the Geneva peace conference with participation of all sides concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization. There is no doubt, the statement says, that the present Israeli Government does not express the opinion of the majority of the people either in the political, or in economic or in social spheres and its extremist and chauvinist policy hampers the establishment of peace in the Middle East. Therefore we insist on resignation of the Begin cabinet and formation of a new government that would conduct a realistic and peaceful policy, the statement says. The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel also demanded immediate withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon. The statement stresses that the attempts to prevent the implementation of the resolution of the United Nations Security Council on this question will invariably result in a sharp worsening of the Middle East situation.

TEL AVIV DEMONSTRATORS PROTEST BEGIN'S POLICY

LD021758Y Moscow TASS in English 1618 GMT 2 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Amman, April 2, TASS--Some 30,000 people at a meeting in Tel Aviv protested against Begin's expansionist policy. The rally was organized by the movement of Israeli Army veterans under the motto "Peace Today." Speakers at the meeting levelled sharp criticism at the policy of Begin's government, regarding it as an obstacle on the road to peace. The Israeli people, they declared, needs peace, not occupied territories. Meeting participants sent a protest petition to Begin signed by thousands of people.

ANTI-ISRAELI DEMONSTRATIONS ON WEST BANK REPORTED

LD0307107 Moscow TASS in English 0640 GMT 3 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Amman, April 3, TASS--Mass demonstrations of protest against the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon were held in the towns of Janin and Tulqarm on the occupied West Bank of the Jordan River. The demonstrators chanted anti-Israeli slogans and declared their support for the Palestine Liberation Organization. The Israeli police used force in dispersing demonstrations. Many demonstrators were arrested. House-to-house searches and arrests are being carried out in the Arab residential neighbourhoods of the towns.

KIRILENKO, OTHERS TALK WITH LEBANESE CP DELEGATION

LD3121167 Moscow TASS in English 1803 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 31, TASS--On March 30 Politbureau member and Secretary of the CPSU CC Andrey Kirilenko; Secretary of the CPSU CC Ivan Kapitonov; First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR Georgiy Korniyenko; and Deputy Chief of the International Department of the CPSU CC Karen Brutents met at the CPSU CC a delegation of the Lebanese Communist Party consisting of the general secretary of the LCP CC Niqual ash-Shawi; Deputy General Secretary of the LCP CC Georges Hawi; Politbureau member and Secretary of the LCP CC 'Abd as-Samad; and Politbureau member of the LCP CC Georges Batal.

The representatives of the CPSU acquainted the Lebanese comrades with the activities of the CPSU and its Central Committee headed by Leonid Brezhnev in the sphere of domestic and foreign policy, described the high creative activity of the communists and the entire Soviet people in fulfilling the decisions of the 25th party congress.

It was noted that the adoption of the new constitution and the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Great October Revolution roused tremendous moral and political enthusiasm which is being successfully translated into practical deeds in the course of the nation-wide competition for raising production efficiency and the quality of work.

The CPSU delegation informed about the consistent translation into life of the CPSU's foreign-policy course, directed at ensuring peace and security, at supporting the struggle of the peoples for national and social emancipation.

Representatives of the Lebanese Communist Party noted the historical significance of the creation of a developed socialist society in the Soviet Union under CPSU leadership, of the Soviet people's new outstanding achievements in the economic, social, political and cultural development, in implementing the Leninist peace-loving foreign policy.

During the talk, views were exchanged on questions pertaining to the Middle East situation, particularly in connection with the stepped up aggressiveness of Israeli ruling circles and their attempts, with the active support of the U.S., to impose on the Arab countries humiliating separate deals, using for these purposes the capitulatory line of the Egyptian leadership.

The sides stated full support for the national-patriotic, progressive forces of the Arab world which are opposing these designs aimed at crushing the liberation movement of the Arab peoples, at denying them the fruits of many years of struggle for independence and social progress, at imposing the neocolonialist yoke. The great significance was noted of the striving by progressive Arab states and all the anti-imperialist forces to rally their ranks for repelling the machinations of imperialism, Zionism and reaction.

Participants in the meeting strongly condemned the brazen invasion by the Israeli military into Lebanon, their new savage atrocities against the civilian population. The LCP delegation described the courageous struggle waged against the aggression by the communists, by all the Lebanese patriotic forces, together with the Palestine resistance movement. The representatives of the CPSU stated their support for the patriotic, anti-imperialist forces in Lebanon which are coming out firmly against the Israeli occupation of south Lebanon, for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the troops of the aggressor, for the preservation and strengthening of the Lebanese republic's national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The delegations of the two parties underlined their solidarity with the Palestine resistance movement, which is the target of concentrated attacks by international and internal reaction seeking to prevent the realization of the legitimate national rights of the Palestine Arab people. Representatives of the LCP noted the community of the vital interests of the Lebanese and Palestine peoples in the joint struggle against the common enemy.

The representatives of the CPSU reiterated the consistent and principled position of the Soviet Union on questions of a Middle East settlement that was exhaustively clearly outlined in Leonid Brezhnev's replies to a PRAVDA correspondent. The Lebanese comrades stated their full support to this position of the Soviet Union.

Participants in the meeting stressed that the present situation in the Middle East the role of the Soviet-Arab friendship, the significance of all-round cooperation of the Arab states with the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community, grow still more. In this connection they pointed to the need for actively opposing the policy of anti-Sovietism, on the platform of which imperialism, Zionism, Arab reaction and the Chinese leadership are linking up.

The Lebanese comrades expressed deep gratitude to the CPSU for the active and persistent support of the national aspirations of the Lebanese and other Arab peoples.

The community of the positions of the CPSU and the LCP on problems of the contemporary international situation was noted during the talk. The two parties believe that, in the interests of universal peace and security, it is necessary to go on stepping up in every way the struggle for the further deepening of detente, ending the arms race, banning the creation of new kinds of mass annihilation weapons, including the neutron bomb.

The representatives of the CPSU and the LCP reiterated the invariable striving of the two parties towards the further development of fraternal relations, towards deepening the cohesion of the world communist movement on the basis of the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism.

The meeting passed in a warm and comradely atmosphere.

Statement Issued

LD012029Y Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 1 Apr 78 LD

[Text] The Soviet and the Lebanese communist parties have strongly condemned the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and declared their solidarity with the Palestinian resistance movement. The statement followed the meeting between Andrey Kirilenko, Politburo and Secretariat member of the CPSU Central Committee, and the Lebanese Communist Party delegation led by Niqula ash-Shawi, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Lebanese Communist Party. The Soviet side affirmed its intention to continue to support anti-imperialist forces in Lebanon, those forces that call for the immediate unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces and for the preservation of Lebanon's independence, sovereignty and territorial unity.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW PRIME MINISTER IN SYRIA REPORTED

LD311348/ Moscow TASS in English 1258 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Damascus, March 31 TASS--A new Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has been formed. It is headed by Prime Minister Mohammed Ali al-Halabi.

There were no marked changes in the cabinet. Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Defence Minister Mustafa Talas, specifically, kept their posts.

The new cabinet was formed in accordance with the constitution of the Syrian Arab Republic after Hafiz al-Asad has been re-elected to the post of president for a term of seven years.

JUNBLATT ARRIVES IN IRAQ; TO DISCUSS LEBANON

LD301358Y Moscow TASS in English 1205 GMT 30 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Baghdad, March 30, TASS--Walid Junblatt, chairman of the Progressive Socialist Party of Lebanon, arrived in Baghdad for a visit. He is to discuss with representatives of the leadership of the Ba'th Party the latest developments in Lebanon caused by the Zionist aggression which is a direct threat to the Palestinian resistance movement and the Lebanese national patriotic movement.

BA'TH DELEGATION LEAVES MOSCOW FOR BAGHDAD 29 MARCH

LD311201Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 March 78 p 4 LD

[Text] A delegation of Ba'th Party workers in the USSR in accordance with the plan for party ties left Moscow for Baghdad on 29 March. The members of the delegation familiarized themselves with experience of the CPSU's work in the sphere of mass political work.

DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER SOKOLOV ARRIVES IN MOZAMBIQUE

LD311057Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[Text] Maputo, 28 March TASS--Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov, USSR first deputy defense minister, has arrived here on an official visit at the invitation of A.J. Chipande, minister of national defense of the People's Republic of Mozambique.

Today Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov laid a wreath at the monument to Mozambique heroes in one of Maputo's central squares. The Soviet guests honored with a minute's silence the memory of the Mozambique patriots who fell in the struggle against the colonialists for the freedom and independence of their motherland.

Meeting With Machel

LD011410Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 1 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Machel, president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, received Sokolov, first deputy defense minister of the USSR, marshal of the Soviet Union, who is in Maputo on an official visit. During the talk, which passed in an atmosphere of cordiality and friendly mutual understanding, the sides exchanged opinions on questions of mutual interest.

Anniversary of Treaty

LD021845Y Moscow in Portuguese to Africa 1700 GMT 2 Apr 78 LD

[Text] A year ago, on 31 March 1977, the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of Mozambique signed a friendship and cooperation treaty. This ceremony was an important event in the life of the two peoples, Radio Moscow observer Aleksandr Fedorov writes.

The foundations of USSR-Mozambique relations were laid during the difficult years of Mozambique people's lengthy struggle against Portuguese colonialism. The USSR then rendered the people of Mozambique multifaceted aid that the Mozambique patriots now recall with gratitude. One of the characteristic traits of the document signed a year ago in Maputo is the equality of rights in the relationship between two sovereign partners, a relationship that impinges on no one's rights, seeks no advantages for either side to the detriment of the other and is aimed at achieving peaceful solutions for all problems.

The treaty stresses that both sides will seek by every means to strengthen mutual relations of friendship and will exchange experiences in the economic, technical and scientific spheres. It declares that, in the event of a threat to peace, the USSR and the People's Republic of Mozambique will engage in mutual consultations envisaging the elimination of such a threat and will fight together for peace throughout the world.

Although 1 year is not such a long time, the time that has elapsed since the signing of the treaty has shown with utter clarity the beneficial influence of the treaty on the development of friendship and cooperation between the Soviet and Mozambique peoples. Evidence of this is provided by the growing trade exchanges between the two countries, by the various enterprises built with Soviet assistance, and by the help rendered by the USSR in the training of Mozambique cadres.

The signing of the Soviet-Mozambique treaty also had an undoubted international significance. As was stated by Mozambique Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano at the Mozambique Constituent Assembly session at which the document was ratified, the treaty has laid down sound foundations for the joint struggle against imperialism, racism and colonialism, for peace and social progress.

WEST TRIES TO INTIMIDATE ETHIOPIA BY OFF-SHORE EXERCISES

LD311624Y Moscow TASS in English 1515 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD

[Text] London, March 31, TASS--Big naval exercises involving 14 British, U.S. and French combatant ships are due to start off the shores of Ethiopia tomorrow. As the British newspaper the DAILY TELEGRAPH reports, Rear Admiral Martin Wemyss will be controlling the exercises. It is not fortuitous that the area of the Horn of Africa has been chosen by Western powers for a show of military might. Now that Ethiopia cut short the aggression and cleared its entire territory, the West is trying to intimidate it, keep tension in the area and thereby hamper the process of normalizing relations in the Horn of Africa where the question of political settlement is on the agenda.

Instability in Africa suits imperialist forces which seek to prevent African peoples from choosing such a way which they consider most appropriate for themselves. Imperialist forces are trying to set some African states against others, stir up and encourage strife between them. Imperialist powers thereby seek to bring about a climate there which would favour the realization of their goal: to use the African Continent in their strategic plans. This also explains their counting on the racist regimes of Africa's south which they consider as the bulwark in the struggle against the national liberation movement. Pursuing such a policy in Africa, Western powers uphold the interests of their monopolies which predatorily plunder the natural wealth of African countries. Such a policy is at variance with the interests of African peoples and runs counter to the requirements of detente, the principles of peaceful coexistence and may lead only to an aggravation of international tensions.

PART OF ETHIOPIA REFERRED TO AS 'WESTERN SOMALIA'

LD312004Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1645 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Here is an item with a London dateline entitled "Situation in Horn of Africa." It summarizes a statement by the Somali Embassy in the British capital. According to the text of the telegram, the Somali Government is once again trying to interfere in the internal affairs of Ethiopia. The statement refers to an integral part of Ethiopia as "western Somalia" and slanderously describes the government in Addis Ababa as colonialist. This statement shows no sign of a realistic position on the part of Somalia.

It is noteworthy that the Somali Embassy in London has chosen to make its statement at a time when it has become known that major British, U.S. and French naval maneuvers are due to begin off Ethiopia on 1 April. Fourteen warships, including seven missile cruisers and two destroyers, will take part in this show of strength off the coast of Ethiopia. This clearly shows that certain circles in the West intend to maintain a hotbed of tension in the Horn of Africa and wreck the efforts for a peaceful settlement of the conflict that are being undertaken by the Ethiopian leaders. The statement by the Somali Embassy serves those same dangerous intentions.

SOUTH ASIA

MALHTRA OPENS INDIAN CP CONGRESS ON 31 MARCH

LD311156Y Moscow TASS in English 1143 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Bhatinda, March 31, TASS--The Eleventh Congress of the Communist Party of India opened here today. Taking part in the congress are 1,500 delegates and representatives of organizations of the Communist Party of India from all over the country. More than 30 delegations of fraternal parties are present at the congress.

The congress was opened by the leader of communists of Punjab, member of the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of India, member of the National Council of the Communist Party of India, chairman of the organizing committee of the congress, A.S. Malhtra. He warmly welcomed the guests from abroad on behalf of the Indian communists. In his speech he pointed to the important role that the present forum of India communists is called upon to play in enlisting broad masses of the working people for further intensification of the struggle for their vital interests, for political and economic rights.

Aliyev Address

LD011422Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0910 GMT 1 Apr 78 LD

[Excerpt] Bhatinda--G.A. Aliyev, the head of the CPSU delegation, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee, today addressed the Indian Communist Party [CPI] Congress in Bhatinda.

He conveyed a fraternal cordial greeting on behalf of the CPSU Central Committee, all Soviet communists and Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, to the delegates of the 11th congress and all members of the Indian Communist Party. G.A. Aliyev's recitation of the greetings of the CPSU Central Committee to the 11th CPI congress was warmly received by the delegates.

CPI Secretary Gupta's Report

LD021710Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1056 GMT 2 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Bhatinda, 2 April--The 11th congress of the Indian Communist Party [CPI] is continuing here. The delegates at this supreme forum of the Indian communists listened attentively to the international situation and the partypolicy report delivered by B. Gupta, secretary of the National Council of the CPI. The report stresses that particularly great successes in all spheres of public life have been achieved by the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community. In international affairs the socialist countries are the natural ally of the developing countries in their struggle against the forces of imperialism, neocolonialism and racism and for the achievement of economic independence and the establishment of a new, just economic system in the world.

The report notes that the development of the world situation is again posing the question of the necessary and further strengthening of the unity of all parts of the world revolutionary process--the socialist countries, the national liberation forces and the workers and communist movement.

One of the most important tasks of the peace-loving forces presently is the struggle against the arms race and for disarmament.

The Soviet Union, led by the great party of Lenin--the CPSU--occupies a central place in the socialist world. This is why imperialism and reaction are directing their attacks primarily against the Soviet Union. The struggle against anti-Sovietism is inseparable from the struggle against Maoism. As at its last congress, the CPI again declares that it regards Maoism as a complete renunciation of Marxism-Leninsm and proletarian internationalism.

Indian communists know the disastrous consequences of Maoism for the international communist movement very well by their own experiences. It is precisely Maoism which is responsible for the split in India's communist movement.

India communists, the report says, cannot agree with the views which are propogated under the guise of so-called "Eurocommunism." The propagators of these views distort Marxism-Leninism, repudiate certain general laws, such as the necessity for a proletarian state, for proletarian internationalism, and so on. At present, such "theorists" are identified with anti-Sovietism, which undermines the influences and authority of the communist parties in the capitalist countries, weakens the link with the working class and other democratic forces and encourages forces which are hostile to communism. All this, the Indian communists believe leads to the destruction of communist parties and the proletariat in class battles with the capitalist world.

The report points out the exceptional importance of further strengthening and widening relations of friendship and cooperation between India and the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community. The visit by Indian Prime Minister M. Desai to the Soviet Union in October last year again demonstrated that Indian-Soviet friendship has stood the test of time because it corresponds to the vital interests of our peoples. The delegates have begun discussion in committee of the main congress documents.

INDIAN PAPER CITES PRC SUPPORT OF U.S. STRATEGY

LD311213Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russina 30 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[TASS report: "Dangerous Position"]

[Text] Delhi, 29 March--Support for imperialism's militarist plans and Peking's desire to rule in Southeast Asia are hindering the development of the relaxation of tension in this region, the Indian newspaper THE PATRIOT writes. Public indignation is intensifying throughout the world at the growing U.S. military presence in the Indian Ocean zone and in Asia. Peking disagrees with this opinion. The Chinese press has frequently voiced approval of U.S. military strategy. China's military potential does not currently allow it to implement its dreams to divide the world, so the PRC is encouraging attempts by Western militarist circles to preserve their outposts in Asia by pursuing a "position of strength" policy with respect to the socialist countries and suppressing the national liberation movements in Asia.

The United States, having enlisted China's tacit agreement, is creating military bases near Asian states which recently obtained independence, THE PATRIOT continues. Peking ignores the emergence of new imperialist strongholds in Thailand, Australia, and the islands of the Pacific and Indian Oceans. China's position, the newspaper concludes, is seriously harming the cause of peace, the security of the world's peoples, and the struggle for universal and total disarmament.

U.S. ARMS TO SEOUL 'COMPENSATION' FOR TROOP WITHDRAWAL

Moscow TASS in English 1343 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

["Attempts to Prop Up Rotten Regime"--TASS headline]

[Text] Tokyo, March 27, TASS--The United States intends to turn over to the South Korean regime tanks, helicopters, guns and other military equipment with which U.S. land forces at the Korean Peninsula are armed, chief of staff of the U.S. army, General B. Rogers said in Seoul. He also said that the question of the transfer of Chaparral ground-to-air missiles is now being decided in Washington.

According to the design of transoceanic strategists, the transfer of military equipment to the rotton Pak Chong-hui regime will serve as a "compensation" for partial withdrawal of U.S. land forces from the peninsula. For this purpose, the U.S. Government intends to implement a broad programme of military aid to the Seoul regime to the sum of about two billion dollars.

The dangerous plans to step up the role of the Seoul regime in the area have far-reaching goals. The United States tries to create the military axis Washington-Tokyo-Seoul. As to the much publicised withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea, political commentators unanimously believe that this is nothing more than a propaganda gimmick aimed to cover up regrouping of U.S. troops in the western part of the Pacific. Moreover, the Pentagon's plans of "withdrawal" of U.S. troops from South Korea do not affect the numerical strength of the U.S. Air Force and Navy in South Korea but, quite the contrary, envisage their considerable reinforcement.

Washington's course heightens tensions in the Far East and causes serious concern of the countries in the area.

ROK 'APPEAL' FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS HINDERS REUNIFICATION

SK030840Y Moscow in Korean to Korea 1330 GMT 1 Apr 78 SK

[Unattributed commentary: "Toward the Road of Dangerous Adventure"]

[Text] The appeal of South Korea's National Unification Board to develop nuclear weapons is not surprising. It just proves that Seoul still opposes the nation's reunification on a peaceful and democratic basis, and is trying to solve this issue by taking a dangerous adventure [?based on a position of strength]. The National Unification Board report, which should seek and explore practical means for peaceful reunification, says presumptiously that South Korea feels an urgent need to develop its own nuclear weapons in order to pressure North Korea. Nothing could more clearly reveal their dark intent than this.

In this regard, it has to be pointed out that such a bellicose report was prepared by top authorities in Seoul. Officials of the Pak Chong-hui regime are not unaware that statements like this--calling for the development of nuclear weapons to pressure the Democratic People's Republic of Korea [DPRK]--are bound to aggravate tension on the Korean Peninsula. Such statements make it absolutely impossible to solve the issues of normalizing North-South relations and reunifying the nation on a peaceful and democratic basis. [Word indistinct] emphasizes the fact that Seoul is intentionally using every means to render a practical and realistic solution to the reunification issue impossible.

Seoul has repudiated every proposal of the DPRK Government to ease tension and expand contacts and solidarity in Korea as unacceptable. For instance, what is unacceptable to South Korea in the DPRK proposal to mutually reduce military troops to 100,000 or less. If this proposal was enacted by the Korean people, the political situation on the Korean Peninsula would improve remarkably. But Pak Chong-hui, in response to the peace efforts of the DPRK, is waging an extensive arms race and inciting war hysteria in South Korea. Each time a possibility for normalizing relations between North and South Korea has opened, he has acted in this manner. The recent tumultuous racket in South Korea--involving the nuclear weapons issue--is also aimed at pursuing base purposes that contradict the interests of the entire Korean people. It seems that Seoul has forgotten the lessons of history. History tells us that political and military ventures in this land have never brought success to anyone, including the Seoul [regime].

STEADY ECONOMIC DETERIORATION FACES JAPAN IN 1978

LD311730Y Moscow TASS in English 1705 GMT 31 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tokyo, March 31, TASS--TASS correspondent Nikolay Rogov reports: Today is the last day of the 1977 fiscal year in Japan. In the opinion of the local press and business community it was marked by a prolonged economic slump and serves as an inadequate basis for the attainment in the 1978 fiscal year of a seven-percent increase in the volume of production as it is promised by the government.

The slump in business activity evokes serious alarm in Japan. In February there was a new decline in the volume of industrial output by 0.6 percent as compared to the previous month. The output of equipment dropped by 2.1 percent, of building materials by 0.9 percent and of durable consumer goods by 1.3 percent. Output is declining also in ship-building, petrochemistry, in the textile and other industries.

The crisis situation in the economy has a negative effect on the financial position of many Japanese enterprises. 1977 was a record year of bankruptcies; 18,471 companies went bankrupt, a substantial increase over the figure of the previous year when there were over 15,000 bankruptcies. This trend is continuing: In February, 6.2 percent more firms went bankrupt as compared to January. The drop in production, the big percentage of idle capacities, the mounting wave of bankruptcies have further aggravated the problem of employment. Now there are more than a million jobless in the country. As reported by the government, 1,260,000 industrial and office workers were out of work in January. Mass dismissals are being carried out everywhere under the pretext of the capitalist "rationalisation of production".

The ending fiscal year also witnessed a noticeable intensification of inflationary tendencies and this has resulted in a considerable increase of the cost of living. According to information provided by the Chancellory of the prime minister, consumer prices last year went up on the whole by 8.1 percent. Yet another serious disease has joined lately the numerous ailments of the Japanese economy: The drastic growth of the yen's exchange rate. This has dealt a heavy blow at local businessmen because the competitiveness of products made in Japan is declining catastrophically. Private capital is not concealing its lack of faith in an envigoration of the economy in the near future. In practice it confirms this by statements about reluctance to make new capital investments to expand production capacities. Considering these unsatisfactory results, local observers indicate that there is no reason to optimistically evaluate the prospects of business conditions in the coming fiscal year.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON BREZHNEV'S TOUR OF SIBERIA, FAR EAST

Brezhnev Krasnoyarskiy Kray Speech

LD011332Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1130 GMT 1 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, today arrived in Krasnoyarsk. At the station, Comrade Brezhnev was met by First Secretary of the Krasnoyarskiy Kraykom Fedirko, members of the kraykom bureau, and leading enterprise workers. They gave a warm welcome to Leonid Ilich Brezhnev and Dmitriy Fedorovich Ustinov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo.

Comrades Brezhnev and Ustinov visited the Krasnoyarsk Vladimir Ilich Lenin engineering plant. They studied the production equipment and the output produced there, including consumer goods, and talked to workers and the engineering and technical staff. Talking to Yuriy (Firsov), a young welder, Leonid Ilich asked how he was working and what the workers living conditions were like. (Firsov) answered: Mechanization and automation have made our work easier and more productive, and so our earnings are going up. Many of the workers have just moved; the plant builds 400 apartments every year. Of course, would like the plant to build more housing. We recently had a new pioneer camp, a sanatorium and a kindergarten open.

I see your attitude is good and businesslike, Leonid Ilich Brezhnev told the workers at the plant, and when people are happy and have a good outlook, their work also goes successfully. The engineers thanked Comrade Brezhnev with all their hearts for visiting the enterprise and for his warm words.

Leonid Ilich Brezhnev made an entry in the enterprise's visitors' book: Dear comrades, I have looked around your plant with great satisfaction. I wish the entire collective great successes in labor, and each of you personal happiness.

Comrade Brezhnev also visited the Krasnoyarsk metallurgical plant, which produces cast and rolled aluminum. Here, as at the engineering plant, he had a businesslike discussion with the enterprises' workers and managers. In the shaped-products section, young workers asked Comrade Brezhnev: Do you like our factory, Leonid Ilich? Yes, he said, it is a new enterprise with up-to-date equipment. But measures must be taken to assimilate the existing capacities more quickly. Here you can do a good deal--the working class, the party and Komsomol organizations. Consider that to be an instruction from me to you.

Comrade Brezhnev visited the political education building, where he held a discussion with the members of the kraykom bureau. Addressing them, Leonid Ilich Brezhnev said: [read by announcer]

The decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress provide for a further increase in the economic potential of the USSR's eastern regions and for an enhancement of their role in the all-union output of industrial products in the current 5-year plan. Thus the party Central Committee is implementing a policy of improving the location of productive forces and of the rational utilization of resources of manpower, energy, fuel and raw materials.

In resolving this task, great importance is attached to your Krasnoyarskiy Kray. Here, as you know, the Sayany territorial-production complex is being formed. The energy supplied from commissioning the Sayano-Shushenskoye GES provides a sound foundation for supplying that complex with energy.

The cheap electricity will permit a complex of electrical engineering works to be built and commissioned in Minusinsk and the commissioning of the first electrolysis blocks at the Sayany aluminum plant before the end of the 5-year plan.

Your region's rich human and raw material resources approximate as closely as possible the processing enterprises, and that is even now yielding a considerable savings. Of course, the development of the kray's productive forces calls for higher development rates in the construction industry and in transportation. I wish to emphasize that the integral development of Krasnoyarskiy Kray industry is of great importance for the USSR's economy. The complexity of the taks is understandable. But since I am here, I must speak openly and say everything, both pros and cons.

Without wishing to cast a shadow on our meeting today, I nevertheless wish to point out that a number of projects planned in Krasnoyarskiy Kray are being built extremely slowly. They are not being commissioned within the established time frames. This is true of the Achinks oil refinery, the Orsk molybdenum combine, the Abakan freight car construction plant, the Krasnoyarsk truck trailer plant, and the combine-harvester factory. In a word, you know better than I do where you are not fulfilling your plan. One must not reconcile oneself, comrades, to that: The responsibility for that will be borne by both the relevent union ministries and the kray leadership.

I want to emphasize that the intensive development of the natural resources and the complex development of the Eastern Siberian economy demands a constant search for and implementation of domestic reserves from party, soviet and economic bodies. Socialist competition is important in this respect. This competition has spread throughout the kray, involving in some instances enterprises situated thousands of miles from Krasnoyarsk.

I was told about the cooperation between Leningrad enterprises and organizations and builders of Sayano-Sushinskoye GES; the Central Committee approved such cooperation because it leads to a reduction in the time required to build the hydropower station. The pledges by Leningrad and Krasnoyarsk also note the high quality of the work during the construction of this hydroelectric station. Practice has convincingly shown us that it is precisely such an attitude of cooperation in solving very important national-economic tasks which is most effective. Together with the Leningraders, the builders of the GES sharply increased speed and quality when constructing this project. I would like to advise you, comrades, to extend such cooperation experience to other production collectives.

More attention must be paid to perfecting capital construction work. In this respect, you still have many reserves that are not yet being used. I want to remind you once more in this connection of the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee December Plenum. These decisions envision the concentration of forces and means upon the most important objects of the 5-year plan nearing completion; upon raising the level of mechanization and automation of work; upon improving the supply of raw materials and materials to the sites, and upon constantly raising the level of people's ideological-political work.

Allow me to express my conviction that the working people of Krasnoyarskiy Kray will successfully implement their socialist pledges for the third year of the 5-year period. You have every opportunity to do this.

Comrade Brezhnev said in conclusion: I am very pleased with my trip here; I am pleased at having visited enterprises, pleased with the attitude of the people, and pleased with my contacts with the workers. I would like to convey greetings and good wishes to you for success in your work from members of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo. We are all convinced that your kray is one of the most economcally developed and promising regions in Siberia and will honorably fulfill the tasks laid upon it.

Then a speech was made by Comrade Fedirko, first secretary of Krasnoyarskiy Kraykom. He said: [read by announcer]

Dear Leonid Ilich: On behalf of all the working people of the kray, the kraykom and all its communists, allow me to express profound gratitude for the fact that even with the pressure of your work, you have found this opportunity to visit our kray. We are grateful to you for all the multifaceted work you are doing and for the practical help you are giving to our kray. You were the inspirer and organizer of the 10-year program for the integrated development of our kray's production forces, adopted in 1971. Thanks to this program, we have begun constructing nine major industrial centers and two territorial-production complexes--the Sayanskiy and the Kansk-Ashinsk fuel and power complex, which we are just beginning.

As a result of the implementation of this major project, we have succeeded in raising the level of industrial production in the kray during the Ninth 5-Year Plan by 1.5 times.

Continuing, Comrade Fedirko spoke of the tasks facing the kray party and economic organizations in the current 5-year period. In order to realize this program, he stressed, we must raise labor productivity in the 10th 5-Year Plan by not less than 40 percent in industry, 23 percent in agriculture and 36 percent in construction work.

Much work is to be done in capital construction. You, Leonid Ilich, have correctly criticized us. Not everything has been done here. We are behind schedule in putting production capacities into service. At the initiative of our best leading collectives, a movement entitled "Let Us Give the Motherland More Output by Commissioning and Mastering Ahead of Schedule Production Capacities" has been set in motion. As a result of this movement, we think that additional output to the tune of R1 billion will be obtained. The kray's working people have all the prerequisites to fulfill their high pledges.

We thank you once again, Leonid Ilich, for the great work you are doing in the interests of the USSR's development, and for your constant concern for increasing the Soviet people's standard of living. We constantly feel this concern in our kray as well. Allow me to assure you, Leonid Ilich, that we shall do everything to successfully embody the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress and fulfill the directives of the CPSU of the Central Committee December Plenum.

Speech in Irkutsk

LD021434Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 2 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Today the residents of Irkutsk warmly welcomed Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Comrade Brezhnev, together with Ustinov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of defense, and Bannikov, first secretary of the Irkutskaya Obkom, visited the aviation works and examined the products. Leonid Ilich Brezhnev and Dmitriy Fedorovich Ustinov were present at the test flights.

Comrade Brezhnev talked with the plant's workers, showed interest in fitting the workshops with modern equipment and asked about the work conditions, and the workers wages and the adequacy of housing. The work's best milling-machine operator, veteran of the Great Fatherland War, communist (Parkhomenko), greeted Comrade Brezhnev:

[Announcer read] Dear Leonid Ilich: On behalf of all our workers, I wish you cordial gratitude for the great work you are carrying out in the party Central Committee and the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. We particularly thank you for your tireless struggle for stable peace on earth and for international detente. We all know of how difficult such work is; we understand this and see the positive results of your great labor. We thank you for the fact that our children and families know of war only from books and our stories. They see a clear and peaceful sky above their heads.

It was with great satisfaction that we heard that, you, Leonid Ilich, had been awarded the highest military decoration--the Order of Victory. And we who took part in the Great Patriotic War received this news with great pride.

On behalf of all war veterans working at our enterprise, and the entire factory collective, allow me to ardently and cordially congratulate you on this merited award.

We, the working class, assure you, Dear Leonid Ilich, and the CPSU Central Committee, that we shall fulfill to the end the historic mission laid upon us by the Communist Party.

Leonid Ilich thanked Comrade (Parkhomenko) for his warm words and gave the war veteran a volume of his memoirs: Malaya Zemlya.

Comrade Brezhnev held a conference with members of the CPSU Obkom bureau and made a speech. He said:

[Announcer read] I would like to talk openly with you today about certain questions regarding the development of your oblast. Irkutskaya Oblast is a fast-developing area of East Siberia, which has unique hydropower engineering resources. An entire cascade of hydroelectric power stations has been set up here on the Angara River, including the very large Bratsk and Ust-Ilimsk power stations. I visited one of them--the one at Bratsk--earlier. It made a great impression on me. Irkutskaya Oblast produces approximately 5 percent of the electricity generated in the entire country. It is no accident that I speak of this. You have a good power engineering base for the integrated development of such energy-intensive industries as nonferrous metallurgy, pulp and paper, and the chemical industry. For this very reason the decisions of the 25th party Congress invision the task of completing in the main the formation of the Bratsk and Ust-Ilimsk industrial complexes. At the same time, it is planned to have the Ust-Ilimsk complex specialize in producing timber, so as to improve the country's supply of paper, cardboard and other products of the timer-chemical industry. And the country, as you know, is much in need of such products. Everything is there, I repeat, for the implementation of such a program.

There are abundant timber, water and power resources. The oblast party organization is doing much in this sphere, and this is a good thing; but there is even more that needs to be done.

Unfortunately, the links which form the complex are developing erratically. (?Apparently this is the main shortcoming.) For example, preparation and processing of raw material for pulp enterprises are lagging behind. This you must give serious thought to, comrades: How to put the situation right. Your oblast is solving another of the major tasks: expanding the production of aluminum. In recent years, this metal has acquired a particular value. It is used in various fields of the national economy. In many countries even window shashes are made of it now. I note that we too are making them at a number of construction sites. At the moment a significant quantity of aluminum is being produced at the Irkutsk and Bratsk factory. This is undoubtedly a great achievement. But here, too, there are possibilities for increasing aluminum production through the effective use of existing capacities.

As you know, the Baykal-Amur railroad [BAM], one of our country's most important construction projects, begins on the territory of your oblast. It is justly called the construction site of the century. I would like to take this opportunity to say some words in praise of our Komsomol, which has begun assisting the BAM. Following the call of their hearts, like real Soviet patriots, thousands of young men and women have come to this construction site from all parts of the country, and are working excellently. On the whole it must be said that the young people help us in everything. Our thanks to them for this.

The BAM is a construction site of the era of advance socialism, and it is important to insure that the people creating this mainline railroad have right now the oppoutunity of studying and mastering the professions that are essential both for this construction project and for the future major enterprises of this region. We must prepare and begin to use the unique natural wealth found along the railroad that is being built.

We must create good living conditions in the area of the construction project, devote more attention to the construction of housing, clubs and schools. This must be done on the necessary scale and at the right technical level, taking into account climatic conditions. In a profound sense this is a party task, and it should be resolved at the present stage by the party organizations of all the krays and oblasts that are crossed by the BAM route.

I want to mention something else. Although your oblast is industrial, nevertheless the very low rates of agricultural development cannot be condoned. True, in the first 2 years of the 5-year plan production of vegetables, milk, meat and eggs grew somehwat in the oblast. But you yourselves admit that this is insufficient. The industrial regions should have an agricultural base and supply themselves with both animal husbandry products and vegetables. Things must be organized so that, for example, there are fresh vegetables in the stores all the year round. Shouldn't we do this? It can be and must be done. They should not be brought in, say, from the south or from other oblasts. Transporting them in this way is an expensive business, and if there is negligence in this, stoppages arise in the trade network, which evokes justified dissatisfaction from the population.

No doubt, comrades, I am saying things you already know, but repetition brings the point home. I say further on behalf of the Central Committee and the government that you should pay full attention to solving the question of supplying the population with meat, milk, eggs and vegetables that are produced locally. You have learned to grow vegetables in hothouses under sheating throughout the year.

A good example of this is the Podmoskovye Sovkhoz, which supplies Moscow with fresh vegetables. You can do this as well.

I have been told of another problem. In your oblast there are many enterprises which are not fulfilling their plans. And what is a plan, comrades? It is the chief instrument by which the party's economic policy is realized. Thousands of people in Moscow, the republics and the oblasts work out the state plan in consultation, taking account as they do so of all our possibilities. If the plan has been adopted it must be fulfilled unfailingly. We need to learn to work rhythmically, without interruptions or stoppages. This requirement must become the leading one in the life and work of every party organization and factory collective. When I speak of working without stoppages, I also have in mind educational work. Sometimes it is necessary to have a heart-to-heart talk with the workers, the team, to help them practically organize their work.

Our working class is characterized by a proprietary attitude toward the business of its enterprise, by creative initiative and by a desire to multiply the gains of all the people. All this is concretely reflected in socialist competition and in creative initiatives. Competition has become effective with us. Competition is conducted not only within one enterprise, but the works of one town compete with the works of other towns and so on. Life itself confirms the necessity and correctness of this. I would like to express confidence that the Irkutsk party organization, which is doing much for the economic development of the oblast, will successfully cope with the tasks set. Allow me to wish you and the working people of the oblast great labor successes.

Arrives in Chita

LD030812Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0700 GMT 3 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, arrived in Chita today. He was welcomed at the station by leaders of the oblast and by representatives of the town's working people. Comrade Brezhnev met with commanders of the Transbaykal Military District and discussed with them certain questions concerning the condition of the combat and political training of the district's forces. Comrade Ustinov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of defense, took part in the discussion. The same day, Leonid Ilich Brezhnev visited a service unit in Peschanka, near Chita, where in 1935 and 1936 he began his military service in a tank unit. Leonid Ilich Brezhnev inspected its training and material resources and the museum of combat glory, and attended a political study session of one of the unit's subdetachments.

Comrade Brezhnev made the following inscription in the book of honor: Dear soldiers and officers, these places are memorable and dear to me. I began my military service here in 1935 and 1936 in a tank unit. Thank you for preserving the traditions of the servicemen who defended our motherland in the Great Patriotic War. Be worthy of those who, not sparing their lives, fought their sacred fight and defended the borders of the Soviet motherland. I wish you good service.

JUDGES, LAWYERS DISCUSS PREVENTION OF CRIME

LD311609Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Mar 78 Morning Edition p 2 LD

[Text] TASS--A conference has taken place in the USSR Ministry of Justice. Participating in the conference were justice ministers and chairmen of the supreme courts of union republics, and workers of judicial and other legal organs of a number of oblasts, krays and autonomous republics.

The tasks of the justice organs and courts for preventing lawbreaking and for combating criminal manifestations were discussed at the conference in the light of the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress, the requirements of the new USSR Constitution, and the propositions contained in the speech delivered by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, at the CPSU Central Committee December (1977) Plenum.

The conference's participants outlined measures for stepping up the justice organs and courts' preventive activity and for improving their work in combating crime. Great attention was devoted to the practical implementation of tasks connected with bringing existing union and republican legislation into conformity with the USSR Constitution and with the preparation of codes and laws of the USSR and union republics.

AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

RADIO REPORTS AGRICULTURE PROGRESS FOR 29 MAR-2 APR

LD310524 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 0500 GMT on 29 March reports that about 500,000 hectares--almost 4 times more than by the same time last year--have been sown to spring crops in Rostovskaya Oblast, RSFSR. At 0830 GMT the radio says Uzbekistan has completed sowing summer grain and is engaged in top-dressing winter wheat. At 1530 GMT the radio notes that over 100,000 hectares have been sown to cotton in Uzbekistan and 1 million hectares to spring crops in the RSFSR. In Kirgizia, according to a report broadcast at 1900 GMT, mass sowing of sugarbeet began on 40,000 hectares of irrigated land in the Chuy Valley reserved for this crop.

At 0100 GMT on 30 March the radio reports that cotton sowing has begun in Tadzhikistan. The crop will occupy 287,000 hectares including about 100,000 hectares for the fine-fiber strain. At 0500 GMT the radio says 300,000 hectares of spring grain crops have been sown in southern Kazakhstan.

At 2100 GMT on 31 March the radio reports that in the Ukraine early spring crops have been sown on almost 500,000 hectares.

On 1 April the radio notes at 0700 GMT that sowing of corn has begun in southern Kazakhstan. More than 2 million hectares are to be sown to this crop this year in the republic. At 1530 GMT it reports that in Uzbekistan 250,000 hectares have been sown to cotton.

On 2 April the radio reports at 0500 GMT that sowing of early cereal crops has ended in the Balkhash plain in Kazakhstan's Alma-Atinskaya Oblast, where 250,000 hectares have been sown to barley and wheat. It says at 1430 GMT that cotton sowing has begun in the steppe areas of Azerbaijan, where 220,000 hectares are to be sown this year in the republic. Finally, at 1900 GMT, the radio reports that farmers of Chimkentskaya Oblast, Kazakhstan, are the first to complete the sowing of early spring crops, barley and wheat on 100,000 hectares.

DELIVERY FAILURES CAUSE SPRING SOWING PROBLEMS

LD311329Y Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 24 Mar 78 p 2 LD

[Yu. Grachev report: "On the Agenda--The Countryside's Orders"]

[Text] The latest session of the all-union operations staff for material and technical supplies for agriculture has taken place. Questions of preparing the kolkhozes' and sovkhozes' pool of machinery and tractors for mass sowing of grain crops and corn and planting of potatoes and beets were discussed. Opening the session, A.A. Yezhevskiy, chairman of the All-Union Soyuzselkhoztekhnika Association, noted that spring sowing work has already begun in a number of the country's southern regions. And the day is not far off when this work will get underway on the farms of all oblasts and republics. By that time it will be essential to have all the machines and mechanisms ready for action. Special attention should now be paid to completing the repair of seed-drills, potato-planters, cultivators, tractors, trucks and machines for applying mineral fertilizers to the soil. As the participants in the session stressed in their speeches, an important role is assigned in this matter to the collectives of industrial enterprises. Many of them are successfully coping with their targets and are supplying farms strictly in accordance with the set deadlines with the necessary equipment, spare parts, mineral fertilizers and other material and technical means. However, not all of them are working like that. A number of plants of the Ministry of Tractor and Agricultural Machine-Building are, as before, lagging behind in fulfilling agriculture's orders.

The Odessapochvomash Production Association, for instance, failed to supply kolkhozes and sovkhozes with 323 VPU-4 transplanting machines in accordance with the 1977 allocations. In the new year the situation with respect to production of this equipment has not improved. Moreover, the enterprise has failed to supply agriculture with a large number of four- and five-bottom plows.

The Kharkov and Pavlodar tractor plants were also named among the enterprises that have failed to meet orders; they are lagging behind in delivering T-74, T-150K and DT-75M tractors to the countryside.

An extremely tense situation has developed at Selkhoztekhnika auto-repair enterprises and also on kolkhozes and sovkhozes with respect to the repair of trucks. This situation is a result of a lack of a number of parts, owing to the fact that plants of the Ministry of the Automotive Industry is very much behind in deliverying these parts.

Not all is going well with deliveries of chemical products to the countryside. Enterprises of the USSR Ministry of the Chemical Industry have failed to supply kolkhozes and sovkhozes with a considerable quantity of pesticides, mineral fertilizers and fodder phosphates. Rovno's Azot Production Association, the Balakovo chemical plant, Dzhambul's Khimprom Production Association, and other enterprises of this sector were rebuked at the session for tardiness in fulfilling the countryside's orders.

Similar complaints were made to representatives of the RSFSR Main Administration for the Transportation and Supply of Petroleum and Petroleum Products, and of the Ministry of the Electrical Equipment Industry and Ministry of Machine-Building for Animal Husbandry and Fodder Production, the enterprises of which are coping poorly with their targets.

The session participants stressed that the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers Resolution "On Additional Measures for Preparing for and Carrying Out Spring Field-work in 1978" obliges the industrial enterprise collectives to fulfill all the countryside's orders unconditionally. Specific measures were outlined at the session for eliminating shortcomings in material and technical supplies for agriculture.

Officials of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, Gossnab, and the USSR People's Control Committee and representatives of ministries and departments participated in the staff's work.

KIEV RADIO SAYS SPRING IN UKRAINE 'SOMEWHAT BELATED'

AU3116S1Y Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 30 Mar 78 AU

[Summary] Having examined the progress made in spring field operations, the Ukrainian Ministry of Agriculture noted that most farms were well prepared for spring sowing. "The spring this year is somewhat belated. Temperatures are rising slowly, which is slowing the process of soil ripening and the development of field operations. If tempratures rise suddenly, this may result in significant moisture losses and in reducing the timespan between early and late crop sowing. It may also cause a great strain in the sowing campaign."

Winter crop top dressing is now in progress in all oblasts. It has already been carried out on an area of nearly 9 million hectares. "However, in a number of places this work must be hastened. Since in some oblasts the seedings have been partly flooded and thus weakened, more fertilizers must be applied to these areas. More than 800,000 hectares in the republic have already been sown with spring crops and nearly 5 million hectares have been harrowed. The progress is greatest in Krymskaya, Odesskaya and Khersonskaya oblasts.

"The production of buckwheat and millet is to be sharply increased this year." Pains are to be taken to improve sunflower growing and seed quality.

COSMOS-1,000 LAUNCHED; EQUIPMENT OPERATING NORMALLY

LD010935Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1219 GMT 1 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Moscow--On 31 March the Cosmos-1,000 artificial earth satellite was launched in the Soviet Union.

The satellite is designed to perfect the space navigation system that is being created to insure the determination of the location of USSR ships from the merchant marine and the fishing fleet in any spot in the world's oceans.

The satellite has been put into an orbit with the following parameters: initial period of rotation--104.9 minutes; apogee--1,024 km; perigee--978 km; inclination of orbit--83 degrees.

Apart from navigational equipment the satellite has the following: a radiosystem for the precise measuring of elements of the orbit; and a radiotelemetric system for transmitting data on the operation of on-board equipment back to earth. The equipment installed on the satellite is operating normally.

Report on Mission

LD011118Y Moscow TASS in English 1100 GMT 1 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, April 1, TASS--Correspondent Nikolay Zheleznov writes: The Cosmos-1000 satellite, which was orbited on March 31, starts a new direction in the extensive utilization of space technology for the national economy. The specialty of the new satellite is sea navigation.

Traffic on sea lanes is steadily increasing, and to enhance the safety of navigation it is necessary to have more accurate and efficient navigational information. This is the kind of work to be done in orbit by the new satellite.

The traditional coastal services and even global ground systems have a number of shortcomings. One of them is that they heavily depend on the weather. Navigation by stars, which had been used by seafarers since time immemorial, also depends on weather conditions.

Space radio beacons open new horizons, offering an opportunity for establishing a global all-weather and highly accurate system for navigation. The satellite keeps sending to earth signals of a definite frequency. These are received by ship aerials and enter an electronic computer for processing.

The basic principle in determining coordinates by signals from the satellite is the use of Doppler effect. The frequency of the signals changes because of the great speed of the satellite. Using these data the electronic navigator produces navigational information in a convenient form--geographical coordinates and precise astronomical time. This makes it possible to automate ship navigation to the utmost.

Together with Molniya and Meteor satellites, which ensure trouble-free communications through outer space and efficient transmission of weather reports, navigation satellites will help enhance considerably the effectiveness of the use of the sea fleet and ensure the safety of sea navigation in all parts of the world ocean. Geodesists and geologists, for whom astronomically accurate coordinates are also of great importance, have long been dreaming of such apparatuses.

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